LOTTERY REPORT DETAILS INSIDER WINS, PG 3

Friday's Jackpot!

LOTTO SUPER 7

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Style pg 15

Kenya Hunt talks to design sisters

Cherry can't save teen's arena job

BANNED Don Cherry may talk a good game, but he couldn't budge Billy's banishers. The vociferous hockey commentator tried to get 17-year-old Billy Steele's job back as a volunteer cameraman at Oshawa's General Motors Centre, but it was no dice, Cherry said yesterday.

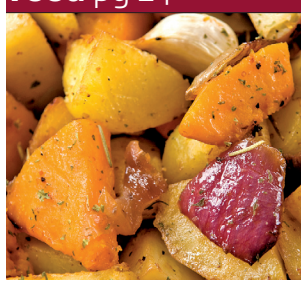
"We had a long talk. I did my best — that's all you can do."

Billy was banned by the arena's operator, Global Spectrum, from working on Rogers TV broadcasts there after he chatted with Cherry three weeks ago.

Billy's father, Bill Steele, has filed a human rights complaint, alleging workplace discrimination and seeking $100,000 for punitive damages and his son's lost wages.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Food pg 24



Natural sweetness

Canada pg 7

Dire forecast for job losses

ShareYourViews
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Stabbings **Schools locked down**

DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

An Emergency Task Force officer stands guard yesterday near Central Commerce High School after the school was locked down. Another school was also locked down as two people were stabbed in the area. Police are searching for two or three suspects. Story, page 3.

Duncan's dismissal

Finance minister says Ontario won't implement 'Dalton Days'

Finance Minister Dwight Duncan insists there will be no unpaid "Dalton Days" for Ontario civil servants, allaying fears sparked by Premier Dalton McGuinty.

One day after McGuinty refused to rule out the possibility of a return to what were known as "Rae Days" in the recessionary 1990s, it was left to Duncan to do damage control.

"We're not doing them," the finance minister said yesterday.

"I'm saying right now we will not be doing anything like that."

Duncan, who will introduce a $100-billion budget with a deficit of $5 billion to $10 billion within the next four weeks, scrambled to reassure anxious public sector workers.

"That sort of component is not necessary," he said, imploring Ontarians to await the fine print of his recession-fighting budget.

"We'll lay out a whole plan that deals with, first of all, the short-term challenges all governments around the world are faced with, and then we'll also talk about what we need to do in the longer term."

McGuinty was asked repeatedly about the likelihood of "Dalton Days" during an interview with the Toronto Star Tuesday and would not rule out the possibility.

Wayne Samuelson, president of the Ontario Federation of Labour, said he was "relieved" McGuinty is not resurrecting the controversial scheme.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

No choice?

- Former Ontario premier Bob Rae, now the Liberal MP for Toronto Centre and a sometime counsellor to Dalton McGuinty, said Queen's Park may not have a choice about reviving the "holidays" that bear his name.

Lack of funding a concern for child-care operators

Ontario child-care operators are fearing the worst.

With federal funding about to run out next year and no new commitments from Queen's Park, as many as 22,000 child-care spaces could disappear — including up to 6,000 subsidized spots in Toronto.

There's no crisis yet, municipalities say, but the lack of new money for child care in last week's federal budget is making them nervous.

"We have a challenge in 2010," said Toronto Coun. Janet Davis, chair of the city's community development and recreation committee. "We are looking at all options to ensure we don't lose any child care service in the city."

With 14,000 Toronto families waiting for subsidized child care, the city can't afford to lose a single spot, she added. Cuts, which city officials acknowledged could start as early as this fall, would be a last resort and occur through attrition.

All eyes are now on Premier Dalton McGuinty, who is preparing Ontarians for a budget deficit.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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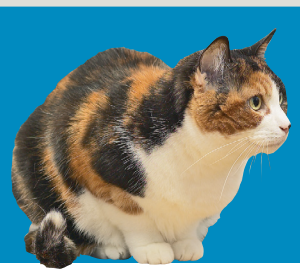
Mississauga man accused of stealing credit card info
A Mississauga man is facing 132 charges after allegedly using pinhole cameras and card-readers to steal credit card info. The man is accused of installing the devices in ATMs, starting in March of last year. Police say he was able to counterfeit credit and debit cards and might have stolen over $250,000. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Local



Who needs superheros

Residents of a west-end Toronto home have a cat to thank for saving their lives during an overnight fire. The blaze, which broke out at about 4 a.m. yesterday in an unoccupied house, quickly spread to a neighbouring home that had five residents. Sean Conway, who lives in the neighbouring home, says a cat named Chauncey jumped on one of the other residents and woke him up — just in time to see flames in the window. All residents managed to escape, including the four-legged hero, who Conway says escaped through a window. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Tomorrow's Metro
Comments
Read Wendy Mesley's investigative consumer column, Marketplace.

metronews.ca
WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Blogs Hollywood Rants reimagines Christian Bale's movie set tirade at **metronews. ca**

Lotteries
Lotto 6/49: 15, 16, 22, 31, 43 & 44 Bonus 32
Ontario 49: 9, 20, 29, 30, 37 & 43 Bonus 27
Ontario Pick 3: 9 1 4; **Ontario Pick 4** : 4 2 1 6
Encore: 0956121
Daily Keno: 2, 4, 14, 26, 27, 28, 32, 35, 36, 51, 52, 54, 55, 57, 58, 59, 60, 66, 67, 69
These results are not official.

Teens stabbed

Ekbert Faas saw his first stabbing victim yesterday.

While walking around noon along Crawford Street, just north of College Street, he noticed what he described as "very sinister guy" swearing and walking away from a man on the ground covered in blood.

"He was trying to move his legs and saying, 'I can't breathe,' " said Faas, who lives in the area. "It was dreadful … I've never seen anyone stabbed."

Blood spattered the snow-covered lawn of 417 Crawford St. and a black hooded sweatshirt along with a black winter jacket and hat lay on the sidewalk nearby. Yellow police tape blocked off about 70 metres of the street.

> **"He was trying to move his legs and saying 'I can't breathe.'"**
> Ekbert Faas, witness

A second stabbing victim kept a 1 p.m. job interview at King West Vets veterinary clinic before proceeding to hospital. Both victims are 16. Both suffered non-life-threatening wounds.

Police immediately locked down several neighbourhood schools, including Monsignor Fraser College and Central Commerce Collegiate, the high school the victims attend.

The lockdown was lifted around 2:45 p.m. after police searched the school, but found no suspects.

Police are looking for two or three suspects seen running north on Crawford Street toward Central Commerce, police spokesperson Wendy Drummond said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

PAWEL DWULIT/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Coco the Siberian tiger plays with an industrial strength bungee cord in her habitat at the Toronto Zoo.

Zoo keeping the restless busy

Like any toddler, Coco is easily bored — especially in winter. It's too cold to get up to much, and without something to keep her preoccupied, it won't be long until she's into some kind of trouble, picking fights or pulling her room apart piece by piece.

Which can be a problem, considering she's a 250-pound Siberian tiger.

Keeping animals engaged during the winter is a perennial battle faced by staff at the Toronto Zoo, where most warm-weather species are brought inside when the temperature dips below 0 C.

When the animals are kept inside they can get bored. They can become listless, destructive and potentially dangerous. That's where "enrichment activities" — balls, puzzles — enter the picture.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

OLG insiders win $198M: Report

LOTTERY Ticket sellers and other lottery insiders in Ontario hit jackpots totalling $198 million over the past 13 years, according to a new report, and lottery officials are turning the findings over to police to see if any winnings were fraudulent.

Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corp. has been trying to rebuild and enhance security in recent years after the province's ombudsman accused unscrupulous retailers of collecting tens of millions of dollars in "dishonest" winnings — and OLG of letting them get away with it.

Deloitte and Touche conducted a forensic audit of the corporation's winners database for the period of 1995 to 2008. The report and the data behind it are now being turned over to the Ontario Provincial Police. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Robberies force TTC to shrink cash

TRANSIT The TTC is looking at ways to minimize the already small amounts of cash collectors can access, following armed robberies at the Lawrence West and Yorkdale stations Tuesday and yesterday. The TTC is thinking about speeding up a plan to increase the vending machines that accept debit and credit cards to minimize cash collectors handle. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

CRASH Police say an officer saved an unconscious driver's life by using a cruiser to halt the swerving car on the Don Valley Parkway. Const. Mansoor Ahmad saw the car swerve between lanes, hit a guardrail and continue southbound around 10 a.m. yesterday near York Mills Road. Ahmad then drove in front of the vehicle and used his cruiser to stop the car. The man was slumped over. He is expected to live.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Possibility grows in Ontario's Greenbelt ~ #2 in a series

Gail Krantzberg is knee-deep in possibility.

Gail Krantzberg at Sherman Falls, Hamilton, Ontario

If people are mostly water, then Dr. Gail Krantzberg is a little bit more. Gail's a professor at McMaster University and a water scientist. She's incredibly passionate about sustaining the world's water, so it's only natural that Gail's a big fan of Ontario's Greenbelt. "The Greenbelt is the lifeblood of water coming into this region, and for the 8 million people who live here," Gail says.

She's especially concerned about the crucial role the Greenbelt plays in sustaining the water that sustains us all—the Great Lakes. In the Greenbelt, water from rain or melting snow flows into the soil and wetlands where it's naturally filtered and purified before making its way clean and fresh into the Great Lakes. "A natural area around a body of water, like the Greenbelt, protects the whole region and all the water that comes out of it," Gail explains.

But a lot more than drinking water is protected by the Greenbelt. It also ensures there's enough clean, safe water for fish and wildlife, for industry and manufacturing, for agriculture and recreation. In fact, this giant water filter sets an example that's bigger than the water of the Golden Horseshoe or the Great Lakes—it's living proof of how to protect and revitalize water sources for the entire world.

Dr. Krantzberg wades into the global possibilities without hesitation. "The entire world depends on clean water," she declares. "Any major city, in any country, should follow the Greenbelt's model. It shows that Ontario's got it right."

To see a video of Gail and other stories from Ontario's Greenbelt visit: www.greenbelt.ca

GREEN BELT

Possibility grows here.

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STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Javiera Ocaranza, right, is comforted by her sister, Daniela. Javiera dropped her baby daughter from a second-floor window to escape a fire that had them trapped at a townhouse complex on Queen Street East. Javiera was saved by a ladder that residents found.

'He is my hero', says baby's mom

Her eyes filled with tears, Javiera Ocaranza stared into the blackened window of the townhouse where she had stood with her infant daughter, their path to safety blocked by a deadly fire raging beneath them.

"I was trapped in there," she said yesterday, falling into the comforting arms of co-op manager Denise Toussaint.

On Tuesday morning, Ocaranza was forced to drop her 20-month-old daughter from a second-storey window into the arms of a neighbour at a townhouse complex in the Queen Street East and Greenwood Avenue area.

Her helper was Werner Schmidt, whose wife, Louise (Lulu) Schmidt, had been in their ground-level unit when the fire started.

He knew he couldn't save her, but called to Ocaranza to drop her daughter into his arms.

Firefighters tried to rescue his 63-year-old wife, who used a wheelchair and relied on oxygen for a severe respiratory condition, but she died at the scene

Neighbours remembered Lulu, who had lived in the tight-knit complex for about three years, as exceptionally friendly and good with children. Her husband is known as the first one to step up if someone is in need.

Ocaranza, who went back to the building briefly on Tuesday evening, said: "He saved my daughter, he is my hero. Him and his wife were good, kind people. This was an accident, a horrible, horrible accident."

Neighbours are taking donations for the Ocaranzas and their children, and doing what they can to comfort and clothe Werner.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Farmer must wait four months for raw milk ruling

TRIAL After it was all over, Michael Schmidt turned to his prosecutors, bowed at the waist and thanked the row of lawyers for their fair conduct at his trial.

Then the dairy farmer from Durham, dressed in his customary country attire of black jeans, khaki shirt and dark, simple vest, turned to Justice of the Peace Paul Kowarsky and thanked him for his helpful guidance.

"I'm happy to be going home to milk the cows," he told the court with a wide, but weary smile.

The six-day raw milk trial wrapped up yesterday in a Newmarket court. But Schmidt will have to wait more than four months to hear whether he, his cows and his some 150 cow-share members will be permitted to continue their raw milk co-operative venture.

Both Schmidt and the prosecution asked to see transcripts of the proceedings before preparing final written submissions. Schmidt has until May 19 to file his final arguments.

Much of the second phase of the trial, which dealt with Schmidt's constitutional challenge, was given over to a scientific debate of the health risks and benefits of drinking raw milk.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MALM 6-drawer chest $149.
Black-brown. W80×D48×H123cm. RA.

JÄLL laundry bag with stand
$4.99

JÄLL laundry bag with stand $4.99. White. Plastic/steel. Folds flat. L41×W43×H64cm.

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PILATORP basket $9.99/set of 4.
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KOMPLEMENT shoe box
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KOMPLEMENT shoe box $14.99/4pk. White. Transparent window lets you see which shoes are inside. W23×D35×H16cm.

KASSETT series. Painted, lacquered cardboard/nickel-plated steel. RA. **Box for paper with lid $11.99/2pk.** W28×D35×H18cm. **Clothes box with lid $12.99/ea.** W43×D55×H18cm.

MALM chest

was ~~$129~~

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ANEBODA wardrobe
$119

ANEBODA wardrobe $119. White. W81×D50×H180cm. RA.
SKUBB organizer $12.99. 100% polyester. White. W35×D35×H120cm.

MALM 2-drawer chest
$59

MALM 2-drawer chest $59. Birch veneer, black-brown. Can be used as a bedside table. W40×D48×H56cm. RA.

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February 5 – 8

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Showdown over teacher supervision

Tonight at midnight is the deadline for the Toronto public school board and its 6,900 high school teachers to ratify a deal. The union has a meeting scheduled today at 4:30 p.m. An agreement is possible if trustees decide to "change their mandate" and give up on their push for more supervision, says the teachers' federation. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Pet Heaven agency faces trial for offering pet euthanasia

Catherine Lenihan knew she had only a few days left with Cara. Her 14-year-old golden retriever was struggling to walk. The dog had been declining slowly for years — steady weight loss, arthritis, her pumpkin-coloured coat had faded to grey around the eyes — but now her back legs were buckling.

"The idea of bringing her to a vet, to die on a cold table with strange people around, I was never doing that," she said. So Lenihan called Toronto Pet Heaven, a North York agency that dispatches mobile vets to perform euthanasia at Toronto-area homes.

A vet arrived within the hour. Cara was put to sleep with her head in Lenihan's lap.

"Pet Heaven, they were absolutely wonderful," Lenihan said. "I'm just so upset about what's happening to them."

Today, Pet Heaven and its owners, Eric and Shelley Blechman, begin a two-day trial in Markham court on charges of practising veterinary medicine without a licence.

KEITH BEATTY/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

Shelley and Eric Blechman are charged with practising veterinary services without a licence for operating a clinic that euthanizes pets.

Bernard LeBlanc, who is representing Ontario's College of Veterinarians, the agency that laid the charges, said the fact licensed vets, not the Blechmans, were the ones holding the needle is immaterial. "You don't practise any profession in a vacuum."

The couple and Pet Heaven could face up to a $100,000 fine if found guilty.

"We didn't do anything wrong," Shelley Blechman said. "For them to give evidence on how we're practising veterinary medicine without a licence — we're not."

Michael Pasquale, who is representing the Blechmans and the corporation, says he is confident common sense will win out.

The hearing begins today. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

ShareYourViews

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Dream motivates informer

TRIAL In the dream, Mubin Shaikh is in a room filled with strangers. He is uncomfortable. A door opens and a familiar face appears. It is Agent J.J.

After waking up, Shaikh reflects on the vision. Until then, he had been consumed with doubt about whether he should work with the RCMP to infiltrate an alleged homegrown terror cell.

When he was a source for the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, Shaikh had enjoyed full anonymity and the freedom from having to testify. But if he agreed to work with the RCMP, he'd likely have to take the stand, possibly putting his family at risk and jeopardizing their reputation within the Muslim community.

It was a difficult decision. But Shaikh believed the dream was a message from God, telling him to follow the advice of CSIS Agent J.J. and work with police in foiling the alleged terror plot by the so-called Toronto 18.

The powerful influence of that dream surfaced in a Brampton court yesterday when Agent J.J. testified about the transfer of Shaikh's services between the two agencies in early December 2005, just weeks before a so-called terrorist training camp occurred.

Defence lawyer Mitchell Chernovsky, whose client was among the 18 people charged with terror-related offences in the summer of 2006, read details of the dream that were contained in the agent's notes.

Although Chernovsky's client was found guilty in September, he and co-counsel Faisal Mirza have brought forth a motion to have the charge stayed, alleging Shaikh was a state agent who entrapped their client, which is especially troubling because he was 17 at the time.

The hearing before Justice John Sproat resumes today. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

News in brief

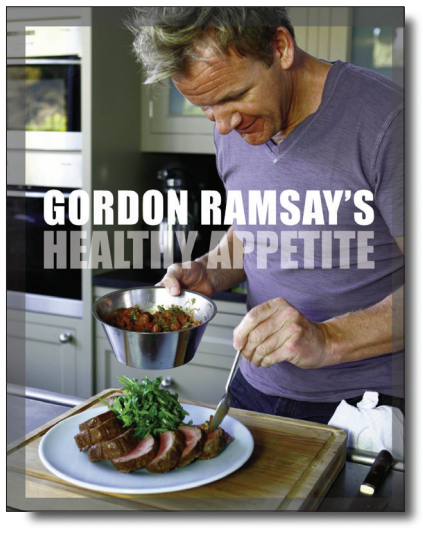
DRUGS A Peel police constable on trial for drug offences was set up by a superior officer at the scene, a defence lawyer suggested yesterday. Sheldon Cook, 40, was surprised when his shift ended Nov. 17, 2005, to discover a box in his cruiser's trunk with cocaine bricks, defence lawyer Pat Ducharme told a Brampton court. Cook has pleaded not guilty. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

IN PERSON

Gordon Ramsay

Monday, February 9th, 12:30pm-2pm

Indigo Eaton Centre



food network

Gordon Ramsay, celebrated three-star Michelin chef and the star of *Hell's Kitchen, Kitchen Nightmares* and *The F Word*, will be signing copies of his new cookbook *Gordon Ramsay's Healthy Appetite*.

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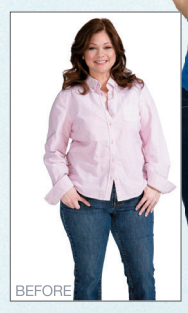

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*Results not typical

Helping Canadians lose weight for over 18 years

Vancouver fireworks display snuffed out
It's lights out for Vancouver's annual Celebration of Lights fireworks display. The event, billed by the Vancouver Fireworks Festival Society as the biggest offshore fireworks competition in the world, has fallen victim to the world financial collapse. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

More peanut products recalled

The list of various peanut products recalled by Canadian food safety regulators over fears of possible salmonella contamination has grown to include 112 products. A dozen more products were added to the recall list Tuesday and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency has corrected information about seven other products. The updated list can be found on its website (www.inspection.gc.ca/english/corpaffr/recarapp/recaltoce.shtml). THE CANADIAN PRESS

Losses may hit 325,000

Dire forecast for Canadian jobs

Canada could lose 325,000 jobs this year and the national unemployment rate could soar to nearly nine per cent, the Toronto-Dominion Bank predicted yesterday in one of the most dire forecasts to date on Canada' worsening labour market.

Canada has already shed 84,000 jobs in the last two months of 2008 as the recession took hold for the first time, but the bank's economists say the picture will worsen as the economy enters a new and more perilous period.

The 325,000 jobs that will be lost this year would be the most since the recession of the early 1990s.

In its report, the TD Bank says because the economic shocks came from problems outside the country, Canada had been sheltered for most of last year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

HBC CUTS JOBS, PAGE 12

Recession to last

- In a separate report, the Conference Board of Canada also saw the recession lasting most of this year with all regions — including Asia — registering severe slowdowns in economic activity.

Ottawa **Day of Mourning**

TRACEY TONG/METRO CANADA

Young protesters were among 800 people from across the country that attended the Day of Mourning yesterday at Parliament Hill in Ottawa, aimed at stopping violence in Sri Lanka.

Cuts to airport subsidy plan may mean higher flying fees

FUNDING Airline passengers could face higher costs after a cut in government funding intended to help airports meet tougher, post-9/11 security standards, the Toronto Star has learned.

The plan to phase out a subsidy that would have delivered more than $33 million to the country's eight major airports, including Toronto's Pearson International Airport, over the next three years was announced in last week's federal budget.

Funding for the Airport Police Assistance Program will dry up on Jan. 1, 2010, as part of the Conservative government's effort to save money, an official in Transport Minister John Baird's office said.

The program cut means Pearson will lose about $3.2 million in annual revenue. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

CAR SEATS Allowing infants to sleep in car seats can lead to serious breathing problems and should be discouraged, a Quebec coroner said yesterday, a year after a two-month-old boy died inside his crib after his mother placed him in the seated position in an effort to prevent colic.

SHOOTING Police say a 21-year-old man shot to death late Tuesday in Surrey, B.C., was the same man who rented a Surrey apartment where six people were killed nearly 18 months ago. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Government rejects calls to ban use of tasers on young people

Calls to ban the use of Tasers on young people were rejected yesterday by the Ontario government, which said such a move would be a "knee-jerk reaction" that prevents police from using the devices before a study can provide guidance on their safety. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Separation of assets

Court rules downturns can factor in divorce settlements

A sharp decline in a spouse's post-separation assets can be a factor in coming to a divorce settlement, Ontario's top court ruled yesterday in a decision that could have profound consequences for separating couples as the economy tumbles.

The case, involving a couple who split more than seven years ago, turned on whether normal rules for sharing assets would be grossly unfair to the ex-husband given the downturn in his business fortunes.

"In my opinion, a court may take into account a post-separation date change in the value of a spouse's assets, and the circumstances surrounding such a change, for purposes of determining ... whether equalizing net family properties would be unconscionable," Justice Robert Blair wrote on behalf of the Ontario Court of Appeal.

The couple, Barbara and Harold Serra, married in 1976, separated in November 2000, and divorced in 2003.

At the time of their separation, Harold Serra's stake in his textile business was valued at between $9.5 million and $11.25 million.

Despite Serra's best efforts, the value plunged dramatically amid, among other things, stiff competition from cheap Chinese imports and changes in trade policies.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Net worth

- "The decline in the value of the business could not be attributed to any fault or lack of effort on the part of Mr. Serra," the court found. Under Ontario law, the separation date is typically used for appraising a couple's net worth, and courts have held they have no discretion to change that.

Petition **Support for Khadr**

ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Alex Neve of Amnesty International Canada holds a petition yesterday requesting Omar Khadr be repatriated following a news conference in Ottawa. The petition included support from 185 Canadian organizations and public figures.

Police lament lack of resources to fight child pornography

INVESTIGATIONS Police battling the scourge of child pornography are busting more and more people for trading in the horrific images and while there are tens of thousands of known suspects, Canadian authorities lament they don't have the time or resources to investigate them all.

While authorities say tough laws are already in place to deal with child pornographers, rapidly evolving technologies and a lack of consensus among experts about why people abuse children makes it nearly impossible to "arrest our way out of this."

"I'm not sure what the answer is," conceded Paul Gillespie, former head of Toronto police's groundbreaking child exploitation unit.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Thousands

- Officials estimate there are at least 65,000 people in Canada — and up to 600,000 in the United States — trading pictures and videos of the sexual abuse of children.

News in brief

HEALTH Chicken and other poultry destined for Canadian dinner tables will pose a greater public health risk under new inspection protocols that allow slaughterhouses to inspect themselves, says a legal action filed by federal veterinarians against the country's food inspection agency.

EMAIL A Bloc Québécois MP was upbraided for sending all her House of Commons colleagues an anti-Israel email that paid tribute to groups listed in Canada as terrorist organizations. Maria Mourani forwarded all 308 MPs an email with links to numerous articles and images that accuse the Jewish state of terrorism, question its legitimacy and glorify violence against it.

BYELECTION The political future of Progressive Conservative Leader John Tory will be settled March 5. That's the day Premier Dalton McGuinty has set for a byelection in the riding of Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock, where MPP Laurie Scott stepped down last month to clear a path for her party's leader.

TASER RCMP officers used a Taser to subdue an armed woman in a shopping mall in Sussex, N.B. The incident occurred Tuesday after police responded to a report that a woman was brandishing a knife and chasing her husband inside a mall barber shop.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Australia on snake, crocodile alert after storms
Rain-battered residents in northeastern Australia are on alert for snakes in their bathrooms and crocodiles on the roads after floods caused by repeated storms washed a freshwater crocodile into a Townsville street — where it got run over by a car. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Artist admits source of poster

The image of a pensive Barack Obama, near left, was everywhere during last year's presidential campaign — on buttons, posters and websites. Shepard Fairey, the Los-Angeles based street artist who designed it, has acknowledged it is based on an Associated Press photograph, far left, taken in April 2006. Fairey has said that he did not receive any of the money raised from sales. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pakistan **Rebuilding bridge**

QAZI TARIQ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Pakistani paramilitary soldier guards army troops preparing a bridge yesterday in the Pakistani tribal area of Khyber near Peshawar. The bridge is a replacement for one wrecked by a bomb Tuesday that has halted trucks carrying supplies to NATO and U.S. forces in Afghanistan. Assailants yesterday torched 10 trucks stranded in Pakistan by the bombing of the key bridge.

U.S. union wants Canada exemption

The United Steelworkers yesterday pleaded Canada's case for an exemption from the "Buy American" provisions of a massive U.S. economic stimulus package as legislators from steel-producing states insisted the measure would remain regardless of President Barack Obama's concerns.

A written submission to the congressional steel committee from the Steelworkers' Canadian-born president, Leo Gerard, came just hours before Arizona Senator John McCain said he'd introduced legislation to kill the provision outright from the bill.

However, the amendment from the former Republican presidential candidate was voted down last night, 65-31. McCain's amendment had stated that the "utilization of funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this act shall not be subject to any 'Buy American' requirement."

The Steelworkers, for their part, are avid supporters of "Buy American," but were before the congressional steel committee yesterday in part to convince legislators to exempt Canada from the provision.

"Because we are an international union, and because Canadian and U.S. manufacturing is so integrated, we encourage you and other members of the steel caucus to approach your counterparts in Canada to discuss a co-ordinated approach," Gerard's submission read.

The Steelworkers say it's Chinese steel, not Canadian, that's the intended target of the provision. American steel-makers have long accused China of employing unjust policies that give its steel manufacturers a competitive advantage. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Background

- Obama took to the airwaves Tuesday to warn senators that leaving protectionist measures in the package would be folly during a global economic meltdown.
- The House has already passed its own version.

Obama caps executive bonuses

BAILOUT U.S. President Barack Obama yesterday imposed $500,000 US caps on senior executive pay for the most distressed financial institutions receiving federal bailout money, saying Americans are upset with "executives being rewarded for failure."

The president said the executive-pay limits are a first step, to be followed by the unveiling next week of a sweeping new framework for spending what remains of the $700-billion financial industry bailout that Congress created last year.

Wall Street firms paid more than $18 billion in bonuses in 2008, even amid the economic downturn and the massive infusion of taxpayer dollars. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Home searched of man linked to Tylenol deaths

SCARE U.S. federal agents yesterday searched the home of a man linked to the fatal 1982 Tylenol poisonings in the Chicago area that triggered a countrywide scare and prompted dramatic changes in the way food and medical products are packaged.

No one was ever charged with the deaths of seven people who took the cyanide-laced drugs.

The FBI would not immediately confirm that the search at the home of James W. Lewis was related to the Tylenol case, only that it was part of an ongoing investigation.

Lewis served more than 12 years in prison for sending an extortion note to Johnson & Johnson demanding $1 million to "stop the killing."

He was arrested in December 1982 after a countrywide manhunt. At the time, he gave investigators a detailed account of how the killer might have operated. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Birds found in both jet engines

SPLASHDOWN U.S. federal safety officials said yesterday they've confirmed there were birds in both engines of the US Airways airliner that ditched into New York's Hudson River last month.

Flight 1549's pilot, Chesley (Sully) Sullenberger, reported moments after taking off from LaGuardia Airport on Jan. 15 that the airliner had collided with birds and both engines had failed. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Teens take plea deals, avoid trial

BEATING The last two Florida teens involved in the videotaped beating of a classmate have agreed to plea deals, keeping the case from going to trial. Three other teens have done the same after being arrested last year and accused of attacking a 16-year-old girl.

The attack was recorded on video and seen around the world via the Internet and TV. They face up to a year of detention on each count. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Prosecutors claim Russian girl's killers ate her body parts

Russian prosecutors say two young men — one of them a butcher — have been arrested on suspicion of killing a 16-year-old girl and eating parts of her body. The girl disappeared after leaving her home in St. Petersburg for school on Jan. 19. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hamas police seize UN aid

Warehouse in Gaza raided

Hamas police seized thousands of blankets and food packages meant for the needy in Gaza amid an apparent dispute with the UN over who was receiving the aid, UN and Hamas officials said yesterday.

Christopher Gunness, a spokesman for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, said Hamas policemen broke into an aid warehouse in Gaza City on Tuesday evening and confiscated 3,500 blankets and more than 400 packages of food.

"They were armed, they seized this, they took it by force," Gunness said, calling the seizure "absolutely unacceptable."

He said police confiscated aid meant for 500 families after UN officials refused to voluntarily hand it over to the Hamas-run Ministry of Social Affairs. Similar UN aid packages had already been distributed to 70,000 residents over the past two weeks.

"They were armed, they seized this, they took it by force."
Christopher Gunness, UN spokesman

However, it was the Hamas government that demanded an "immediate apology" from the UN yesterday for what spokesman Taher Nunu said was "spreading false news."

Ahmad Kurd, the Hamas Minister of Social Affairs, said the UN had been handing out relief to groups tied to Hamas' opponents.

UN officials said they distributed aid directly to residents according to a list compiled by community leaders.

The UN agency provides food, education and health care to more than half of Gaza's 1.4 million residents.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Philippines **Protest against military exercises**

BULLIT MARQUEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Protesters shout slogans yesterday during a rally near the U.S. Embassy in Manila, Philippines, to protest the forthcoming joint military exercises between the two countries. The protesters denounced the military exercises and the U.S. government for allegedly "giving shelter" to U.S. Marine Cpl. Daniel Smith who was convicted in the rape of a Filipino woman in 2005.

Vatican demands Holocaust denier recant

The Vatican yesterday demanded that a prelate who denied the Holocaust recant his positions before being fully admitted as a bishop into the Roman Catholic Church.

It also said Pope Benedict did not know about Bishop Richard Williamson's views when he agreed to lift his excommunication and that of three other ultraconservative bishops Jan. 21.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel had urged the Pope to make a clearer rejection of Holocaust denials, saying there had not been adequate clarification. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

War zone hospital left empty

SRI LANKA Doctors and patients yesterday fled a hospital in northern Sri Lanka — closing the last medical facility in the war zone — after days of artillery attacks by government and rebel forces, aid groups said.

With concern growing for the estimated 250,000 ethnic Tamils trapped in the conflict zone, the UN said cluster munitions appeared to have hit near the hospital and that 52 civilians were killed elsewhere Tuesday.

As fighting raged, President Mahinda Rajapaksa presided over an Independence Day celebration and reasserted that the government was on the brink of destroying the Tamil Tiger rebels and ending the 25-year-old civil war. An all-out government offensive has forced the rebels out of their strongholds.

The U.S, Britain and Canada urged both sides to agree to a temporary ceasefire to allow civilians and the wounded to leave the conflict zone.

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IN PERSON

Jeff Kinney

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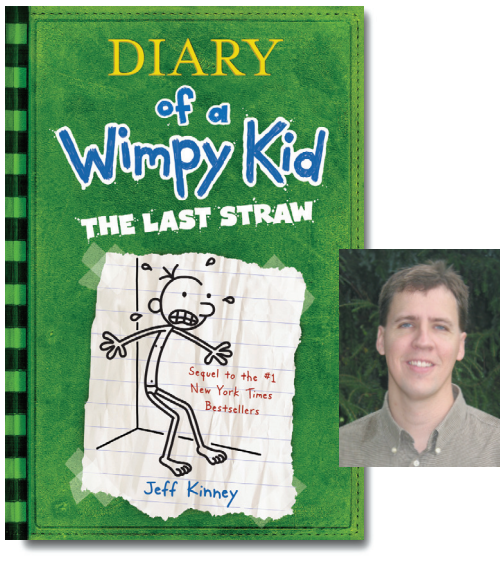

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Comment & Views

Comment

Politics of fear and smear

Home&Abroad

Andrew Cohen

Canada & world insight

If you were wondering about the decline of our politics — or, more precisely, why so few Canadians voted in the last general election — consider the story of Bill Casey, the long-serving, independent-minded member of Parliament from Nova Scotia.

Mr. Casey was elected from the riding of Cumberland-Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley in 1988. He lost his seat in 1993 but was returned in 1997. Until 2007, he was a Conservative and, by all accounts, loyal, principled and conscientious.

He was drummed out of the party when he voted against the government's budget because he said it violated the Atlantic Accord. In the last election, the Conservatives chose another candidate and Mr. Casey ran as an Independent.

Fair enough. Parties drop members who refuse to vote the party line (though, notably, Michael Ignatieff permitted a clutch of his fellow Liberals from Newfoundland to cast a symbolic vote against the federal budget this week). Stephen Harper thought Mr. Casey disloyal, and expelled him from the caucus. Leaders do that.

So Mr. Casey ran on his own. During the campaign the local branch of the RCMP received a complaint that he had "embezzled" funds. He had not; the $30,000 in question, transferred to an account established for his campaign, had been returned to the party.

Curiously, the complaint came from the Conservatives, specifically, says Canwest News Service, from Diana Read-Miedema. She was the official agent of Joel Bernard, the Conservative candidate.

Mr. Casey says it was "an attempt to smear my reputation and my character." That's why he rose in the House of Commons the other day to clear his name.

He is so angry that he promises to run again (he was re-elected with 68 per cent of the vote last year) although he had planned to retire. He thinks vindictive Conservatives at a higher level were trying to discredit him.

Independent MP Bill Casey alleges he is a victim of a smear campaign by the federal Conservatives.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

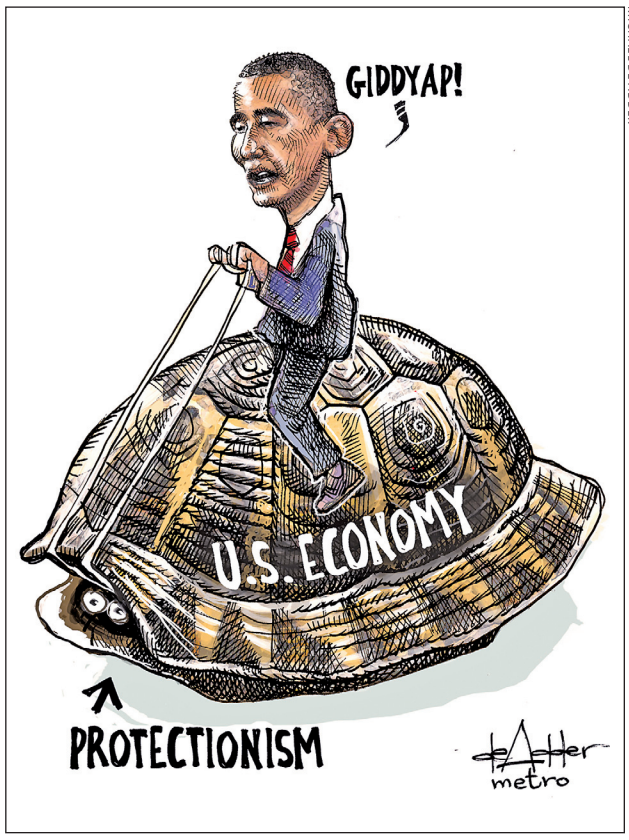
They say they weren't. The national party never had any questions involving Mr. Casey's transactions, says spokesman Ryan Sparrow.

Incidentally, would that be the same Ryan Sparrow who was "suspended" by the Conservatives during the campaign for saying the father of a dead soldier who had criticized Mr. Harper on Afghanistan was a Liberal?

And would that not be the same campaign in which the Conservatives gleefully vilified Stéphane Dion — a decent man — in cartoons, mocked his English and ridiculed his proposed carbon tax?

See a pattern here? This is politics of fear and smear. No wonder Canadians aren't voting anymore.

Andrew Cohen teaches journalism at Carleton University. He is the author of Extraordinary Canadians: Lester B. Pearson.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Letters

No absolute answers

Atheists are allowed to express their religious views too. Agnostics, too.

If God is the highest most knowing being in the universe, and one knows there is no God, one may then be the most knowing being and is in fact God. I would say, there is a God, don't worry — he's got the whole world in his hands ... or our atheists do.

As a conservative Calvinist Christian, I understand there are no easy answers, and a qualified absolute statement on God is hardly a basis for living by happenstance.

JOHN VAN EGMOND, MISSISSAUGA

Views

Atheist ads promote debate, understanding

Robert C. Fennell

Recently it was announced that some atheists and the Freethought Foundation of Canada are planning to buy advertising space on Canadian transit systems in order to broadcast the message that "there's probably no God." Several cities' transit systems, such as Halifax and Victoria, have already rejected the campaign.

Should this campaign be allowed? I can't see how they can be denied the right to advertise. Such beliefs are clearly already part of the cultural landscape in which we live — a landscape in which free speech and freedom of religion are highly prized. So long as these ads do not incite hatred, no enduring harm will result. Of course, just as people have the freedom to run these ads, anyone reading them has the freedom to disagree completely.

Christian objections to these transit ads, or the objections of any other religious tradition, run the risk of painting themselves into a corner. If I enjoy the freedom to celebrate publicly the existence of God — which I do — then others' non-religious beliefs should be permitted in the public arena as well. If I forbid others to share their faith, or lack of it, I need to be prepared to have the public expression of my faith forbidden. Such silencing on either side does nothing to advance understanding, compassion and reconciliation.

It was in fact Christian messages about Jesus on buses in England that first prompted this campaign. In London and elsewhere, atheist-inspired bus advertising suggested "there's probably no God." Ironically, the credibility and durability of Christian faith — or any faith — are actually strengthened when such "atheist ads" invite public response. All religious belief is more convincing when we are willing to enter into debate and dialogue, rather than running away or shutting it down. This is certainly a moment in history when we need plenty of dialogue to find deeper mutual understanding and respect. By knowing and trusting one another, let's hope we can more effectively tackle the real crises of hunger, disease, war and poverty.

If atheist advertising appears in Canada, Christians and other religious groups need not overreact. People of faith have nothing to fear. The faith that Christians, Muslims, Jews, Hindus and others have does not depend on everyone agreeing with them. After all, Canada has matured in the last decade. We have welcomed back into public life and conversation many dimensions of faith and spirituality. Our many faith (and non-faith) traditions reveal exciting searches for meaning, transcendence, and ethical living. They are all part of what makes Canadian culture interesting, vibrant, creative — and free.

Robert C. Fennell is a professor of Christian theology and history in Halifax.

Worth mentioning

Teens sending racy pics face child porn, felony charges

Though youth is fleeting, images sent on a cellphone or posted online may not be, especially if they're naughty.

Teenagers' habit of distributing nude self-portraits electronically — often called "sexting" if it's done by cellphone — has parents and school administrators worried. Some prosecutors have begun charging teens who send and receive such images with child pornography and other serious felonies. But is that the best way to handle it?

"Hopefully, we'll get the message out to these kids," says Michael McAlexander, a prosecutor in Allen County, Ind. A teenage boy there is facing felony obscenity charges for allegedly sending a photo of his private parts to several female classmates.

In some cases, the photos are sent to harass other teens or to get attention. Other times, they're viewed as a high-tech way to flirt.

"We don't want to throw these kids in jail," McAlexander says. "But we want them to think."

This month in Greensburg, Pa., three high school girls who sent seminude photos and four male students who received them were all hit with child pornography charges.

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Magna-owned New York plant to close after workers reject contract

Magna International said yesterday it will close its New Process Gear transmission parts plant in Syracuse, N.Y., that employs 1,400 people, after union workers rejected a new contract that the Canadian owners said was essential to keep the plant operating. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Business

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In brief

PANASONIC Japan-based Panasonic Corp. said yesterday it will slash 15,000 jobs and shut 27 plants worldwide. The world's largest maker of plasma display TVs also lowered its forecast for the fiscal year to a net loss of $4.2 billion US, its first annual loss in six years.

ING CANADA Canada's largest home insurance provider has been hit by a fire sale, as hard-pressed Dutch conglomerate ING Group surrenders its majority interest in ING Canada at a steep discount. ING Canada shares fell 15 per cent yesterday after the news, closing at $28.82, down $4.97. Trading had been halted Tuesday afternoon with ING Canada stock at $33.79.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

WestJet eyes KLM, Air France deal

AIRLINES WestJet Airlines, Air France and Amsterdam-based KLM have taken a step toward inking a deal that would allow passengers to easily connect with all three airline networks. The three carriers said yesterday they reached a memorandum of understanding to begin working on a code-sharing agreement in late 2009 or early 2010.

In the meantime, the companies are looking into ways to co-operate on baggage check-in, e-ticket sales and a potential frequent flyer program under a possible inter-line agreement.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Germany Cash paid for junk cars

JOERG SARBACH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A crane piles junk cars at a scrapyard in Varel, Germany. The German government is paying people who junk old cars a bonus equivalent to almost $4,000 toward a new, environmentally cleaner vehicle as part of its $106-billion stimulus plan. The cars must be at least nine years old.

HBC cutting 1,000 jobs

Canada's oldest company Hudson's Bay Co. is cutting 1,000 jobs in Canada, or about five per cent of its full-time workforce, as part of a corporate restructuring to improve efficiency and lower operating costs.

The Toronto-based retailer said yesterday the cuts, and other streamlining moves, will save it about $150 million this year.

The streamlining announcement follows a restructuring announced last month that creates a shared services group designed to provide finance, IT, supply chain and logistics and central operations to all Hudson's Bay businesses in North America.

Yesterday's streamlining is one of the first major moves made by chief executive Jeff Sherman to revitalize the company.

John Williams, senior partner at retail consultant JC Williams Group, said the job cuts are also likely a result of a disappointing holiday sales period.

Hudson's Bay said the staff reductions will include both administrative positions as well as store positions.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Background

- The Hudson's Bay Co., incorporated in 1670, owns more than 600 The Bay, Zellers and Home Outfitters stores and employs about 60,000 people full and part-time.

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Beckham wants out of MLS

David Beckham announced yesterday that he wants to stay with AC Milan permanently and leave the Los Angeles Galaxy. "I have expressed my desire to stay at AC Milan now and it's just down to Milan and Galaxy to come to an agreement," Beckham said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports

Evidence against Bonds unsealed

A U.S. federal judge yesterday unsealed hundreds of pages of court documents at the heart of the criminal case against Barry Bonds, including positive drug tests that prosecutors linked to the home run king. They include a transcript of conversations regarding injecting the slugger, and a list of players like Jason Giambi, who are scheduled to testify for the U.S. government at Bonds' upcoming trial. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: JOHN CHICK, JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA

Bosh hurt, Raps come up short

NBA RESULT

Lakers 115 **Raptors** 107

LOS ANGELES LAKERS VS

Kobe Bryant had 36 points, including a pivotal jumper with 23.6 seconds left, as the L.A. Lakers escaped Toronto last night with a 115-107 win over the Raptors, who lost Chris Bosh to a right knee injury.

Joey Graham had a career-high 24 points for the Raptors, while Jermaine O'Neal had his strongest game of the season with 22 points, nine rebounds and nine blocks. Andrea Bargnani added 21 points in Toronto's fourth straight loss.

Bosh had 12 points and eight rebounds before leaving the game early in the fourth quarter with a sprained right knee.

The Raptors were already without point guard Jose Calderon, who sat out with a sore hamstring. It's the same ailment that forced him to miss two games in November and another 10 in January.

Despite playing shorthanded again, Toronto led by five points after each of the first two quarters, then survived a 12-point third quarter from Pau Gasol to take an 87-85 advantage into the fourth.

With Bosh in the locker room, Bryant hit a long jumper to give the Lakers their first lead of the second half with 6:27 left, and Sasha Vujacic followed with a three-pointer to make it 98-94. Bryant hit another jumper to preserve the four-point edge, then added an 18-footer with 2:17 left to extend the lead to six.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

LeBron 52 in NY

- Two nights after Kobe Bryant scored 61 points at Madison Square Garden, LeBron James dropped 52 last night in a 107-102 Cavs win over the Knicks.

TONY BOCK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Kobe Bryant drives by Jermaine O'Neal last night.

Too bad many couldn't see it

Adnan Virk

Guest columnist

This has been largely a forgotten season for the Toronto Raptors. Crippled by an underachieving roster, short on talent and effort to compete ill-conceived by Teflon Don Bryan Colangelo, the good news for MLSE is the ironic consolation that the majority of fans aren't watching.

Not that apathy is the culprit. It's the incongruous battle between Rogers and TSN and the fact that if Rogers is your TV provider and the game is on TSN2, you'd have better luck cooling off Christian Bale screaming at a DP than actually watching the game.

Who to blame amidst such a ridiculous affair?

MLSE shares some blame for selling off games to the deep pockets of TSN and taking money over the fact its growing property would be unviewable.

You can slam TSN, obsessed with hockey coverage, but conveniently interested after the ratings rise of the Raptors the last two seasons.

As for Rogers, evidently a grudge match is worth sacrificing the wishes of customers who have shown fealty and fiscal loyalty to the media giant.

Maybe it's just galling to me that last night we missed the Lakers, one of the premier franchises in sports. It's not like we're missing the moribund Grizzlies. But wait, you won't be able to see them on Saturday, either.

Adnan Virk is co-host of Score In The Morning on The Score television network.

Dorsey signs with 'Skins

The Toronto Argonauts have lost another player to the NFL. Dominique Dorsey, the CFL's outstanding special-teams player last season, has signed a contract with the Washington Redskins. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Leafs Buffaloed

NHL RESULT

Maple Leafs 0 Sabres 5

VS

The Buffalo Sabres barely needed to break a sweat in their return to HSBC Arena. Thomas Vanek scored three goals and Ryan Miller stopped all 16 shots he faced last night as the Sabres hammered the Leafs 5-0.

Playing its first game on home ice in 18 days, Buffalo was hardly even challenged by the listless Leafs.

The Sabres can certainly expect a lot more competition when the Montreal Canadiens pay a visit Friday night. Toronto gave rookie goaltender Justin Pogge the third start of his NHL career and basically hung him out to dry. Toronto was playing for the second time in as many nights and simply had no life.

The visitors were guilty of countless turnovers and missed defensive assignments, not to mention the power plays they handed Buffalo throughout the game. THE CANADIAN PRESS

DAVID DUPREY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Drew Stafford celebrates his first-period goal last night.

Sports in brief

NHL The head of the NHL Players' Association believes it's time to consider a rule mandating helmet use during fights. Paul Kelly feels his constituency is open to new restrictions on how the gloves are dropped. Acknowledging the role fighting has in policing the game, he added that so-called "staged fights" between two players with skill sets limited to chucking knuckles may no longer have a place on the ice. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kulemin quietly improving

TheHockeyNews

Ryan Kennedy

thehockeynews.com

It's really difficult not to like Luke Schenn, even though his NHL career has barely started. In my opinion, it's difficult not to like Nikolai Kulemin, either, though I'm sure there are a lot of skeptics out there.

The book on Kulemin was that of a high scorer who had a Russian league championship under his belt and used to play on a line with Pittsburgh superstar Evgeni Malkin.

And while all this is true, it's not necessarily what he would excel at in the NHL.

In fact, it's Kulemin's two-way game and defensive consciousness that will make him a valuable member of the Maple Leafs as the years go by.

His 17 points aren't shabby for a rookie, but if there's anything I'd like to see him do more over here, it's the fierce body-checking regiment he dished out while playing for Mettalurg Magnitogorsk.

True, the youngster was demoted to the Marlies at one point this year, but let's remember the learning curve here; he's still a first-year NHLer.

Expect a better season next year from Kulemin, who is still getting acclimated to North American culture and a schedule that will see him play at least 25 games more than he was used to in Russia.

Meanwhile, Tuesday's game against the Panthers brought another occasion to fete Schenn.

In drilling Radek Dvorak into the boards, Schenn had his second pasting of the week, following up his destruction of the Pens' Malkin on Saturday.

The youngster punctuated that hit by feeding Tyler Kennedy haymakers when the Pittsburgh forward attempted (and failed) to avenge Malkin's honour.

There was no retribution from the Panthers, but Schenn continued to show his NHL growth, taking more chances on offence and successfully defending a 2-on-1.

But it was during an official TV timeout when Schenn made a bigger impression.

The cameras turned to a Canadian soldier in the crowd, who was attending the game with his girlfriend courtesy Schenn, who has set up Luke's Troops as a way to support Canada's military.

Now many hockey players do great work for charity and setting up people with game tickets is a nice way to brighten someone's day, but let's remember that Schenn is still a teenager.

The fact he is already committed to a cause and is seeing it through speaks volumes of the young defenceman's character, and it's not difficult to see his leadership skills developing.

While we're on the topic of Schenns, Luke's younger brother Brayden is making noise as a potential first-round draft pick of the Buds this summer, based on the quality of his play and lack thereof on the part of the Leafs.

Naturally, draft position will determine a lot, but as a quick preview, Brayden is seen as a two-way centre who plays a strong, physical game.

At the high end of the scale, that means he'll be similar to young Flyers captain Mike Richards. Lessen expectations and he's Rob Niedermayer.

While a top-notch goal-scorer is needed more at this point, I'm sure Leafs fans would have no problem with another Schenn in the house.

The Hockey News thn.com

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Andy The-Anh guest judge
Critically acclaimed Vietnam-born, Canadian-raised designer Andy The-Anh will be appearing as a guest judge on Project Runway Canada on Tuesday Feb. 10. The-Anh is well known for his impeccable suits and his stunning dresses. METRO NEWS SERVICE

Style

Glam up your mane

Whether you're going out to a romantic dinner or just staying in, bring a touch of elegance to your V-day 'do with Goody Luxe hair accessories. This collection is available in four styles, ranging from classic to modern: Deco, Antique, Vine and Starburst. The Goody Luxe collection, ranging in price from $4.99 to $7.99, is available in leading food, drug and mass-market retailers across Canada. METRO NEWS SERVICE

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE COLACINO, ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

A study in contrasts

Sister behind Rodarte brand takes a break from NY fashion week preparations to dish on her works and inspirations

KENYA HUNT
Metro World News

In three short years, Kate and Laura Mulleavy have gone from scrapping together enough money and resources to produce a collection of dresses to being the designers who the fashion world's coolest members love to namedrop.

Sonia Rykiel lists the sister act as young talents she admires, Karl Lagerfeld has purchased their clothes, and top magazine editors including Carine Roitfeld and Anna Wintour line up for their runway shows. You can't get a more ringing validation than that. But perhaps the most amazing aspect of their story is the paradoxical.

They create insanely beautiful, fantastical dresses — from their hometown, Pasadena, where they still with the 'rents.

"I'm lucky that I live with my parents. Many people have to cut back in this economy. But we've scaled back as far as we can go already," Mulleavy says.

And they actually prefer to wear trousers. "I hope we can get away from the expectation that a woman designer has to design for herself," she adds.

Mulleavy takes a break from her New York Fashion Week preparations to talk:

Q What are your earliest memories of fashion?

A I think I have a few. One is that my grandmother was an opera singer. I remember being in the house and seeing these costumes. The colors were amazing. And Kate would draw these elaborate costumes. It seemed foreign to me but it was so beautiful I was drawn to it. And the other is sitting down and watching old Cary Grant Catherine Deneuve movies with my mother.

Q Your work usually has an element of fantasy to it. Where does that come from?

A Well Kate and I were partners in crime when we were little; we were living in a fantasy world. We grew up in a magical setting in northern California surrounded by mustard fields, apple orchards and horse ranches. Everywhere you looked, you could have an imaginary world. We loved The Secret Garden and dressing up.

Q Your cultural references are always so rarefied, do you have any junk pop culture guilty pleasures?

A Everything! I love that show Top Chef, although it's not exactly a guilty pleasure since it's such a good show. And last season, our collection was about Star Wars too, which could be a guilty pleasure for a lot of people.

Q You are a favorite of fashion's major players, yet you don't seem "of" fashion. How did you manage that?

A I think it all came about by circumstance, we always wanted to be designers but we chose a different path. We went to UC Berkley. We didn't study design. We thought do you want to go to graduate school or move back home? The most logical thing was to move home and try to make it work. And we didn't see the need to move. The distance comes from that.

Q What is the inspiration for your upcoming fall collection?

A We have this superstition where we don't like to talk about what we're doing too much before it shows. That way we can be secluded with our ideas and thoughts. But I can tell you that last season was about the idea of a world of remnants — what would be left behind if you told a story about the future. In our world that meant talking about Robert Smithson and Spiral Jetty and literal things like Donnie Darko.

Q Are there any real life women who you find particularly inspiring?

A I've always loved women like Yoko Ono and Patti Smith and Kim Gordon or Eva Hesse, who defined the last 50 years of art. I love women that have a strong opinion or voice.

DAN & CORINA LECCA PHOTO

An ensemble from the Rodarte spring/summer 2009 collection. Sisters Kate and Laura Mulleavy, the designers who started the label, are known for their fantastical dresses.

These flats were made for walking

KENYA HUNT
Metro World News

SHOE TREND Crimson-soled Christian Louboutin heels are sexy and fun. But after about five blocks, the story changes (they are door-to-door shoes, after all). As we watch our transportation budgets shrink, comfy flats have never looked more appealing.

Marc by Marc Jacobs ballet flats, $295, netaporter.com.

Tashkent by Cheyenne boot, tkprice, tashkentnyc.com

Les Prairies de Paris, $120, shopbop.com.

Dolce Vita moccasins, $98, oaknyc.com.

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Curves aren't just for hips anymore, add some curvaceous beauty to your lashes with Rimmel's new Sexy Curves Mascara, $7.99. Its curvy triple plump brush has shorter bristles to build volume and longer ones to curl and separate. **METRO NEWS SERVICE**

Plaid up top, neutrals below

Style File

Kim Elbo

kim.elbo@gmail.com

ask kim

I have two things in mind that I want to give my girlfriend on Valentine's Day — a ring and a necklace, which one should I get her?

Go for the necklace, a ring seems a little too serious for a Valentine's Day present. The Tiffany Keys Collection at Tiffany & Co. is an elegantly designed collection that any girl would love to have. If you're looking for other classic designs check out the adorable antique seal inspired necklaces at pyrrha.com.

E-mail your style questions to kim.elbo@gmail.com.

Vancouver's Kim Elbo has a passion for fashion. Here she shares the latest style tips.

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Shop: H&M
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hm.com

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Address: Various Locations
ae.com

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Shop: Gap
Address: Various Locations
gap.com

High Top
Designer: Aldo
Shop: Aldo
Address: Various Locations
aldoshoes.com

Slip On
Designer: John Varvatos
Shop: J2 clothing
Address: Various Locations
j2clothing.com

Moccasin
Designer: Fenchurch
Shop: Boardroom
boardroomshop.com

Plaid

Minimal on the check colours and very casual, spring's plaid shirts are a definite staple. Lightly distressed, faded and wrinkled are how these plaids are being bought and worn. If you're looking for a layering piece to go on top, style the plaid button up with a polished plain blazer, cardigan sweater or a waist coat. A simple dark jean will do with this plaid style; anything lighter may look a little too lumberjack.

accessory

Keep it smooth with Truefitt & Hill's natural shaving cream, $33, and Merkur's perfectly balanced weight razor, $55. Available at momentumgrooming.com.

Shoe Trend

Take a walk on the not-so-wild side with classic canvas shoes, leather moccasins and suede high tops. This spring, men's shoes are seen in neutral tones and as low profile slip-ons. It's all in the details with these natual hues so look for the extras like different coloured insoles and mixed fabrics. These shoes will look great with lighter linens, shorts, khakis and jeans. Style advice: As the season gets a little warmer nix the socks, cuff up your pants and show off your shoes.

tip: Have mildew on your leather shoes? Mix together a cup of rubbing alcohol and an equal amount of water. Sponge on, working into the leather, and allow to air dry. (essortment.com).

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From Feb. 9 to 11, Bayview Village Shopping Centre (2901 Bayview Ave.) will host tons of discounts at Browns, Capezio, Davids, Ecco, Feetfirst, Geox, New Balance Toronto, Nike Toronto and more. METRO NEWS SERVICE

Accessorize with Siriano designs

Project Runway winner set to release Payless shoe and purse collection this fall

JOSEPHINE LIM
for Metro Canada

The youngest Project Runway winner Christian Siriano is back, but this time he's trying his hand at designing shoes and purses instead of clothes.

Siriano, the winner of season four, has signed a deal with Payless ShoeSource to design his first footwear and handbag collection. It will be unveiled at New York's fashion week this month and be available in stores across Canada this fall.

The deal covers multi-season collections, and price points are expected to be in the $50 to $70 range.

"I think it's great for me to partner with Payless because my clothes are a little higher end, but I realized I also have a younger fan base," says Siriano.

"I think all of them could shop at Payless and buy the shoes because they're designer and really similar to the originals we're designing for the runway."

He joins other Payless designers and stylists such as Laura Poretzky, Lela Rose, Stacey Bendet and Patricia Field. All their collections aim to feature the latest runway and red carpet styles.

"I think people are really careful with what they're spending their money on fashion-wise," says Siriano.

That's not to say he isn't confident in selling his collection.

"I think accessories and shoes people will always buy even in a tough economy," says Siriano. "If you have a fabulous dress, you need fabulous shoes to go with it."

As for what to expect in his fall collection, it's a reflection of women he loves to dress — someone who is powerful and strong. The collection entails rich colours, Egypt and the desert, which is very different from his spring collection.

"I think inspiration comes from what I love inside. Then, I take it from something material like Egypt and the desert," says Siriano.

GETTY IMAGE

Designer Christian Siriano, the winner of Project Runway season four, applies his high-end fashion sense to a new and affordable Payless collection that will debut at New York Fashion Week.

His collection uses a lot of snake-skin patented leather with chain elements, says Siriano. He says to expect really strong shoes and dramatic shapes for his bags.

"(The bags are) quite cool and not overly feminine," he says. "You can be any type of girl wearing them."

Since winning the show last year, he has moved on to build his label, Christian Siriano and has had the chance to dress stars like Vanessa Williams, Heidi Klum and Victoria Beckham.

Siriano also has a book coming out at the end of this year called Fierce Style, filled with fashion tips with a little autobiographical information.

As for the fashion industry and what's it's really like, Siriano says it's nothing like the show.

"It's hard to actually pick up so much tangible knowledge because you're thrown into something and it's really not how it is in real life," he says. "Everything I made in Project Runway I've never ever made in my entire life."

"I think accessories and shoes people will always buy even in a tough economy ... If you have a fabulous dress, you need fabulous shoes to go with it."
Christian Siriano, designer

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Calling all "under 25" designers
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Diana: world famous items

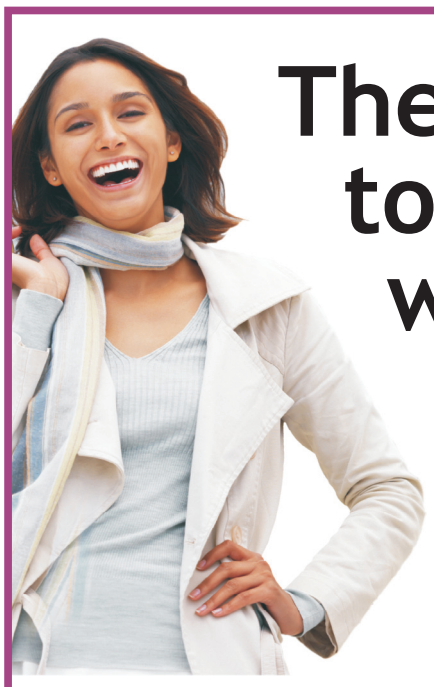
KATONA LÁSZLÓ /METRO WORLD NEWS

Diana: a celebration exhibition in Budapest showcases around 150 pieces that belonged to the late Princess of Wales. It includes her world famous wedding dress, which has a 7,62 meter long trail. The dress was made by silk.

Acid wash returns

TRENDS It's kind of funny to see how many trends have surfaced from the worst of the '80s bin. First, harem pants (YSL made them beautiful and luxe, but the world still associates them with MC Hammer), then Bananarama style jumpsuits (YouTube them) and now — wait for it — acid wash denim.

KENYA HUNT/
METRO WORLD NEWS



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Le Labo founders Edouard Roschi and Fabrice Penot aim to produce a "sensory shock" with Le Labo.

A fragrance pick me up

KENYA HUNT
Metro World News

SMELL OF RECESSION. One of Laura Mulleavy's strongest memories of smell is the perfume Opium.

Her mother would spray her bed sheets with them. "It seemed so unnecessary — my mom isn't a perfume wearer — but so emotionally charged for us. It seemed like a beautiful thing to do for your children. I'll know that smell for the rest of my life," says the designer, who, along with her sister Kate, runs the critically adored fashion line Rodarte.

Despite declining sales in the cosmetics and fashion market, perfumed water's historic connection to mood could make it an unexpected recession upper. "For me, wearing perfume is psychological. If you're feeling bad, perfume always makes you feel better," says Romina McGuinness, a 23-year-old writer from France whose Tunisian mother would splash her cheeks with orange blossom water whenever she had childhood fits of fear or tantrum.

"It smelled nice and calming. We always had a bottle in the house," she recalls of the fragrance more commonly known in stores as Fleur D'Oranger.

> **"If you're feeling bad, perfume always makes you feel better."**
> Romina McGuinness, 23

Edouard Roschi, the French co-founder of the exclusive, niche fragrance line Le Labo, says that fragrance can be a small comfort in rough periods. "These are challenging times for everyone and people try to lighten up and find cheerful ways to colour each day and perfume can be something that impacts the senses in a good way if used right," he says. He and his partner Fabrice Penot approach perfume-making as an art form. Their collection of rarefied fragrances, a hit in cool emporiums such as Colette in Paris and Barneys New York, includes Fleur D'Oranger, which was once viewed as an antidepressant.

Perfume sales are even increasing in some regions. The Florida company Parlux, responsible for mass-market celebrity perfume lines (think Nicole Miller and Josie Natori), predicts that its profits will rise 43.2 per cent in the second fiscal quarter according to Women's Wear Daily. Meanwhile, Douglas Perfumeries, Europe's biggest perfume retailer, posted a four per cent jump in its first quarter.

"I think that in these times, people tend to be more sensorial and I am sure that music, perfumes and other accessories are used as a way to 'forget' about hard realities, a way to protect one's self," he adds.

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High fashion stays true

Paris couture shows flaunt whimsy and excess for spring/summer

Let them eat cake. The famous French diss was on the tip of everyone's tongue at the Paris haute couture fashion shows last week.

The theme was set early with the frothy Dior confections that opened the week.

While economies around the world crumble, the small band of couture designers snubbed such cold realities and asked their audience to suspend disbelief — to dream.

Christian Lacroix's bride combined full tulle skirts with gleaming embroidered matador jacket. For Chanel, Karl Lagerfeld explored the contradictory elements of floral overstatement and clean modern minimalism all in white. Jean Paul Gaultier's Spanish collection riffed on the sultry flamenco dancer and Picasso's sculptural cubism.

Unlike ready-to-wear collections that are shown in fashion capitals six months ahead of their season, couture shows are mounted just weeks before the time the designs are meant to be worn.

The spring/summer shows, narrowed down to just three days this season, are composed of one-of-a-kind spectacles intended only for the extremely rich. Though the market for such confections may be dwindling, they continue to pitch glamour against the economic odds.

And despite a downturn in the global economy, chances are slim that these luxurious suits and dresses will ever be discounted.

Still, they attract an audience — burlesque star Dita Von Teese, actress Mischa Barton and rapper Kanye West.

JACQUES BRINON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Despite global economic gloom, at Dior's couture show in Paris, designer John Galliano showed little restraint.

For Dior, British designer John Galliano referenced the early days of Christian Dior as well as paintings by 17th-century Dutch masters. Consider a magical mix of billowy puff sleeves, fitted torsos and magnificently giant loopy skirts.

It might seem insensitive to flaunt such excess. But it ain't called haute for nothin'.

As an institution, haute couture is in palliative care. Yet it won't lie down.

And as sure as each passing season it becomes more of an anachronism, its defenders leap to justify its existence.

They wax on about its magical, fantastical nature — how important it is to experiment with the limits of fabric and cut and drape, how important it is to escape the realities of a sometimes hard-knock world.

"Something to make people dream," said Bernard Arnault, chair and chief executive of LVMH Group and Christian Dior, after Monday's show.

While he predicted things wouldn't get better until the end of 2010, many fashion watchers lament that haute couture has been on a long, steady march toward irrelevancy for decades.

John Galliano told reporters: "There is a credit crunch, not a creative crunch. Of course, everyone is being more careful with their discretionary purchases. I am. But it's our job to make people dream, and to provide the value in quality, cut and imagination."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

REMY DE LA MAUVINIERE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Chanel ensemble by designer Karl Lagerfeld.

CHRISTOPHE ENA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

French designer Christian Lacroix's bridal collection.

"There is a credit crunch, not a creative crunch. Of course, everyone is being more careful with their discretionary purchases. I am. But it's our job to make people dream, and to provide the value in quality, cut and imagination."
John Galliano, designer

More Paris couture week highlights

KENYA HUNT
Metro World News

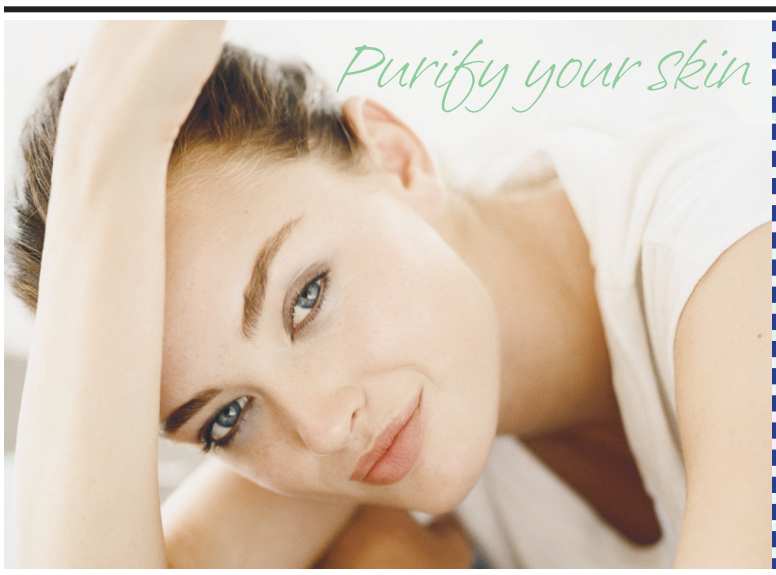
Anne Valérie Hash
Anne Valérie Hash brought a young and understated sense of coolness to couture week.

Jean Paul Gaultier
Whether through flashes of skin or razor sharp tailoring, Jean Paul Gaultier made the shoulders a focal point.

Givenchy
If the couturiers jobs were indeed to "make the summer collections relevant to a changed world," according to The International Herald Tribune's Suzy Menkes, than Givenchy's Riccardo Tisci got it right.

GlobalStyle

Kenya Hunt
Read Kenya, exclusively at metronews.ca/globalstyle and check out her blog at kenyastyle.com



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Forget winter. Be a winner!
KitchenAid is reuniting with BakeSpace.com in February for the appliance maker's second online Appliance-a-Day Giveaway. This means that every day next month, foodies who visit the food social network can win premium appliances. Visit bakespace.com/kitchenaid. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Food

"To roast garlic with the vegetables, separate cloves (as many as you like) but do not peel. Toss with vegetables to roast."

Barb Holland/for Metro Canada

Compost
When done, squeeze garlic out of skins, discarding skins in the compost.

EDITOR: NINA DRAGICEVIC, NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA

For boasting the best roast

À **la** carte

Barb Holland
Metro Food Writer

Roasting vegetables brings out their natural sweetness, maintains their bright colour and adds flavour you just don't get when you boil or steam them.

Use a large, shallow, preferably dark coloured roasting pan. Spread vegetables in a single layer, as overcrowding will steam rather than roast vegetables. If making a large amount, use two pans and rotate the pans partway through cooking. Stir occasionally.

The oven temperature can vary with whatever you might be cooking at the same time (a roast), from 325°F to 400°F (160°C to 200°C), just adjust cooking time accordingly. Many vegetables can be roasted at the same time, however denser vegetables will take longer than softer vegetables and the size of the pieces will also affect cooking time. Don't cut vegetables too small or they might burn rather than roast.

Roasted Root Vegetables

Vary the vegetables and amounts to your preferences. I like to give the potatoes a bit of a head start in the oven rather than parboiling them. Makes about 6 to 8 servings.

INGREDIENTS:
- 1 – 2 tbsp (15 to 30 ml) olive oil
- 2 to 3 medium all-purpose or Yukon Gold potatoes
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) olive oil
- 1 clove garlic, halved
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) dried thyme leaves
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) crushed dried rosemary leaves
- Pinch each coarse salt and pepper
- 2 to 3 carrots
- 2 to 3 parsnips
- 1 small butternut squash

METHOD:
Preheat oven to 325°F to 375°F (160°C to 190°C). Peel potatoes and cut into wedges or chunks. Toss potatoes with 1 tbsp (15 ml) oil, garlic, thyme, rosemary, salt and pepper. Place in a large, shallow heavy roasting pan. Roast 10 minutes.

You can roast potatoes, carrots, parsnips, brussels sprouts, sweet potatoes, rutabaga, fennel, beets, celeriac and onions.

Peel and cut remaining vegetables in 2-inch (5 cm) chunks. Toss carrots, parsnips and squash with remaining 1 tbsp (15 ml) oil and add to pan after potatoes have been cooking 10 minutes. Stir and roast until vegetables are tender and nicely browned, 45 to 60 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Other Vegetables: For something a little different, try roasting cauliflower. Cut cauliflower into florets, toss with olive oil and seasonings (as above) and roast until lightly browned and tender. Other winter vegetables that roast well are Brussels sprouts, sweet potatoes, rutabaga, fennel, beets, celeriac and onions.

Serve roasted vegetables as a side dish, or toss with cooked pasta and serve hot or at room temperature.

Barb Holland is a professional home economist and food writer who believes in shopping locally and in season.

valentine's

The bundle for your sweetheart

ROMANCE Longo's Sweetheart Bundle includes the following: Chicken cordon Bleu for two; Baked brie in puff pastry; Salad with Balsamic dressing; Vegetable side dish; Roasted red potatoes; Chocolate cake for two; Longo's Blood Orange Sparkling Water; Lindt chocolate hearts; 12 long stemmed red roses; and a Valentine's Day card. The Longo's Sweetheart Bundle is $99.99 and can be ordered at all Longo's locations or by calling 1-800-9-Longos or at longos.com. Place your order by Feb. 11. The Sweetheart Bundles can also be delivered through grocerygateway.com.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

In brief

SINGLE LADIES!
To paraphrase Beyonce, single ladies: Put a bid on it! Toronto Argonauts nose tackle Adriano Belli is so committed to raising money for SickKids Foundation, he is even willing to sell himself and his friends. Just in time for Valentine's Day, Belli has organized a dinner on Wednesday, Feb. 11 at Trane Studio (964 Bathurst St.) in downtown Toronto where ladies can bid to have a romantic dinner that night with various CFL players and sports figures in a special silent auction. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Cover is $20 (includes glass of wine and a rose) or $50 (includes three-course dinner, a glass of wine and a rose). Net proceeds to benefit SickKids Foundation.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

HEY BOYS!
"I've read that Valentine's is a man's most stressful day of the year. How to juggle all those flowers, chocolates, lingerie and wine? It's tough being a guy. So let me help — I'll tell you about a wine that will make you look good." To read this week's column from Billy's Best Bottles, visit metronews.ca

LiquidAssets

Peter Rockwell
liquidassets@eastlink.ca

Pizza picks

If you've ever been to Italy you know the way we treat pizza in Canada is a crime. Over there the combination of dough, tomatoes, mozzarella and toppings is an art form. Here, with some notable exceptions, our attempt at a good pie is a bore that takes an hour to deliver.

It drives me crazy because I love pizza (especially my wife's homemade creations) and there is nothing I enjoy more than a few slices washed down with a glass or two of vino.

The best pick is a red with low acidity because the tomato sauce will bring more than enough to the party. Wines made from the Sangiovese grape (like those from Italy's Chianti region) are a classic match.

The **2007 Trapiche Malbec** ($8.65 - $10.90) from Argentina is a nice alternative especially if you are looking to drink on the cheap. Though enjoyable now, its blueberry fruit and youthful tannins could still use some time in the bottle to mellow.

I'm partial to Spanish Rioja with my pie and the soft, wild cherry fruit with a touch of wood spice that is the **2006 Campo Viejo Crianza** ($14.45 - $17.50) will have you reaching for another piece.

Prices reflect the range across the country. Some products may not be available in all provinces.

Peter Rockwell is the everyman's wine writer, working in the liquor industry for more than 25 years and travelling the globe looking for something to fill his glass and put into words.

More online
For more home and condo news and columns, check metronews.ca/toronto/life/househome.

Metro Homes

Interior Design Show

Catch the up and coming trends, ideas and products at the Interior Design Show at the Direct Energy Centre — 100 Princes Blvd. on the grounds of Exhibition Place. The show begins tonight and runs through Sunday, see interiordesignshow.com for more info. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS DUNLOP, DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Home office essentials

Chair, desk, lighting and storage key to bringing your work home

More and more North Americans are working from home, whether that means plopping a laptop on the dining room table or having a room dedicated as an office.

Phones and computers aside, virtually any space can be made into a workable home office by concentrating on a few basic ingredients: A chair, a desk, lighting and storage. Some quick tips from designers on what to look for:

THE CHAIR

Hands down, this is the most important item, designers say.

"It should probably be your biggest investment," says Peggy Kovacic of Burbank, Calif., an IKEA designer for nearly a decade. "Investing in a chair today, your back will thank you tomorrow." Greg Dunlop, a national manager for Boston-based Allsteel, which makes office furniture, says a top-notch office chair will: Support your back by following the curve of your spine, have an adjustable seat pan that slides forward and back, can be adjusted higher or lower and, if possible, have adjustable arm rests.

Allsteel's Acuity chair.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTO

A designer himself, Dunlop advocates for his company's Acuity chair, which is similar in price (and appearance) to the iconic Aeron chair, which has been the gold-star standard for office chairs for years. The Acuity retails for $600 to $800 US.

Dunlop warns against office chairs that place a bar at the lower back to lend support.

"That's not what you want," he says. "That's another pressure point."

Monica Pedersen, an HGTV designer, likes IKEA and Crate & Barrel's office chairs. In particular, she recommends Crate & Barrel's Icon Executive office chair ($599 US) and IKEA's Nominell swivel chair (starting at $139 US) for bringing style into the home office.

IKEA's Kovacic warns against buying a chair online.

"You want to sit in it and make sure your body feels good in it," she says.

"It should probably be your biggest investment. Investing in a chair today, your back will thank you tomorrow."
Peggy Kovacic

THE DESK

Dunlop cautions that while most office desks are 76 to 81 centimetres tall, if you buy one that's taller, make sure your chair will adjust. If it doesn't, you may be able to resolve the difference by attaching a keyboard tray to the underside of the desk.

The key is to avoid having your shoulders raised while typing at the computer, says Dunlop.

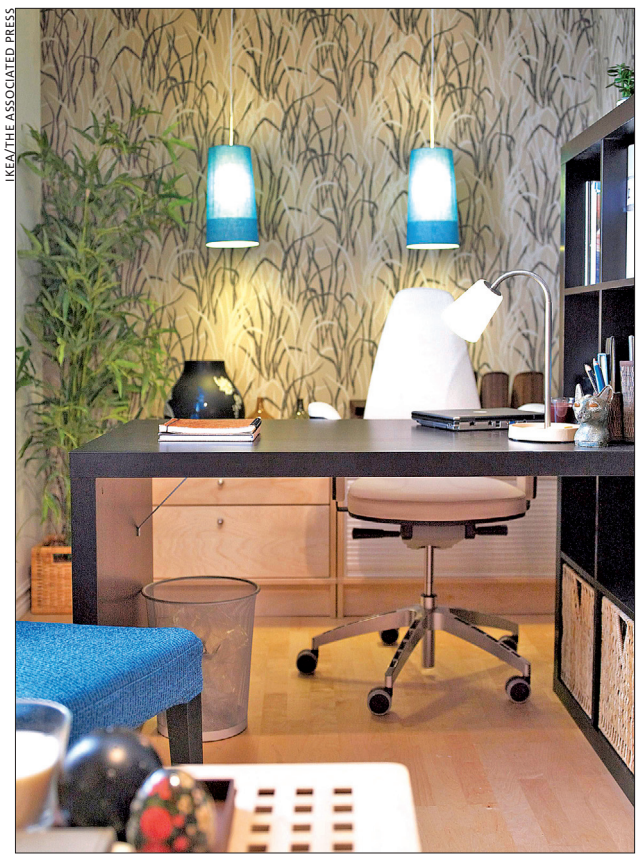
If the desk and chair don't align properly, your elbows won't make that ergonomic, 90-degree angle that helps prevent back pain.

As for desk style, Pedersen often uses Ballard Design's modular office furniture in her design projects because they're attractive and "you can create it any way you want."

LIGHTING

Pedersen recommends a swing-arm lamp on the wall above the desk for task lighting and either a larger lamp or good ceiling lighting for more diffused light.

IKEA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Virtually any space can be made into a workable home office by concentrating on a chair, a desk, lighting and storage as seen in this IKEA home office design.

Kovacic advocates a swing arm with a halogen bulb and trying to position the desk near natural light.

"You're sitting inside all day, so natural light makes it so much nicer," she says.

STORAGE

Kovacic recommends something with doors that close to minimize clutter, especially if the work area is in a prominent part of the house, such as a family room. Homeowners can tuck away not just files and accessories, but computers and printers behind cabinet doors, too.

"It makes it look more serene and clean," says Kovacic. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lowe's, Ikea continue openings

STORES Ikea and Lowe's are moving ahead with plans to boost their presence in Canada on hopes that a federal tax credit for home improvement projects will send shoppers rushing into their stores.

Furniture and home decor retailer Ikea Canada said Tuesday that it's planning a "major expansion" in Winnipeg and Ottawa, while also rebuilding showrooms in other parts of the country.

The Swedish company didn't say in its announcement how many stores it planned to open or rebuild.

Meanwhile, Lowe's Companies (NYSE:LOW) says that three more of its home-improvement stores will be added to its roster in the Toronto area by the end of the second quarter.

The U.S. company opened its first stores in Canada last year, and has 11 existing locations.

The expansion decisions come in the wake of a plan in the proposed federal budget that would give Canadians as much as $1,350 in tax relief on home improvement projects.

"We believe in the vitality of the Canadian market and we have every indication that Canadians are still interested in investing in their homes, particularly with projects like new kitchens," said Ikea Canada president Kerri Molinaro in a release. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Decor

Read more in the March issue of STYLE AT HOME magazine.
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PAUL CHMIELOWIEC

Clear choice

Gus Modern's fresh take on see-through

HOME & STYLE Barely there materials have long been a staple of small-space decorating, but Gus Modern's accent table amps up acrylic with a faux bois pattern that makes see-through seem new again. 12"x12"x18" Timber table, $225, Stylegarage, 866-534-4343; stylegarage.com.

— BRETT WALTHER

Book pick

Small-space guide proves indispensible

HOME LIBRARY The Smart Approach to Small Space Living by Susan Boyle Hillstrom, $24, Creative Homeowners, 2007, softcover, 224 pages.

This handbook will answer every question you've ever had about decorating a small space, whether it's about furniture placement, how to use colour in a room or transforming a space with lighting. Chapters focus on every room in the house and information is broken down into manageable chunks. I bought this book when I moved into a 700-square-foot apartment, and have referred to it over and over again. — LAUREN FLANAGAN

Full potential

These space-saving tips help maximize every inch of room

When former Style at Home associate design editor Tamara Robbins Griffith bought her first home with husband Edward Griffith, they thought of the tiny loft as a stepping stone. But now that the couple has maximized every inch of space, they can't imagine leaving their cosy nest. Here are Tamara's top five small-space decorating tips:

1. Treat the space as you would any other home. Just because it's small doesn't mean it has to be sparse or devoid of colour, pattern or texture.

2. Invest in luxurious details. If your home is small, you won't need to budget for huge area rugs or large quantities of tile, so devote some money to an indulgence that will give your home the wow factor.

3. Don't go mini. Sometimes one substantial chair is better than two small ones. And if you have to buy a small sofa or dining table, try mounting a large mirror or piece of artwork on the wall for oomph.

4. Go up. Maximize your vertical space. Have custom built-ins installed all the way up to the ceiling if you can afford it. A less expensive solution is to try semi-custom cabinetry (like Betsa from Ikea).

5. Unsure? Consult a pro. Whether large or small, a home can look and feel fabulous with a truly successful design. A designer will help you maximize space and also be mindful of elements like shape, repetition and balance — all important in a great space.

— TAMARA ROBBINS GRIFFITH

DAVID BAGOSY

The teensy master bedroom, left, meant there was only room for a queen-sized bed and bedside tables. The vintage headboard was revitalized with a fresh and colourful slipcover, and the Ikea box spring — with four drawers! — given a custom skirt. The luxe linen drapery panels add softness to the rough backdrop of the exposed brick wall.

Window shopping **Shed a little light with these stylish sconces**

Living in a small space shouldn't mean sacrificing style, especially when it comes to these chic sconces. — LAUREN FLANAGAN

Duncan, $170, Crate and Barrel crateandbarrel.ca.

Contemporary, $43, Rona, rona.ca.

Orbit cherry veneer, $280, Design Within Reach, dwr.com.

Orgel, $35, Ikea, ikea.ca.

Crystal with gold and silver finish, $333, Union Lighting and Furnishings, unionlf.com.

Jenson, $545, Elte, elte.com.

MICHAEL GRAYDON (DUNCAN)

How do you know what colour to paint your trim? Just consult this primer

Q I live in a small home, and I've had decorators suggest I paint out all my off-white trim to make the rooms look larger. How do you know when it's a good idea to paint the trim white or cream, or to paint trim and walls one colour?

Joanne Morrissey, Kingston, Ont.

A The answer, as with so many things in life and decorating, is it depends. Here's what it depends on:

How architecturally significant is your trim? Painting trim a different colour draws attention to it — nice if you've got detailed trim, but not a great idea if you have the three-inch builder's basic stuff. It'd often be better to paint that type of trim the same colour as the wall.

How dark is your wall colour? Pairing dark or mid-tone walls with light-colour trim creates high contrast. That can be a beautiful and crisp effect, or the eye may perceive it as busy, which can make a room feel smaller.

Where one lands on this question is partly in the eye of the beholder and partly determined by how the room is used.

You may not want this busy effect in a TV room or a bedroom (where you want to keep things calm), but it might be lovely in a living room, entry or dining room.

Is your home open concept? If so, you'll likely want the same colour on the trim in rooms that are open to each other, to increase the sense of flow.

Margot Austin, senior design editor Style at Home

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We are our own superhero

TheHunt

Amit Paul
amitp@rogers.com

Times, they are a changing. I'm sure this comes as news to very few of us. In times of peril it's only natural that we look for super-natural, heroic saviours. Below is an insight to what has changed this year, with respect to real estate, and where our heroes may come from.

During the boom it seemed the only type of affordable home was the fixer-upper. Today the fixer-upper home struggles dearly for consideration. Buyers are looking for a home that comes ready with upgrades; one they can just move in to and do nothing. It's ironic how in times of struggle buyers become most picky!

Power of sale properties do not carry the same appeal they previously did. With falling prices and plummeting interest rates, most buyers realize they don't need to settle for a foreclosure property to cash in on a great deal. In fact just last week clients of mine bought a $400,000 range home in Milton at about $30,000 below even 2008 prices.

One overlooked factor that has led to buyers controlling, to a large extent, the bargaining power, is the wider selection of properties on the market. Not only are there fewer buyers but there are more properties for sale. Much of this increased volume is due to panic, but it is there nonetheless. Make no mistake, there are many intelligent buyers out there looking to take advantage of the times — the reason it isn't prevalent is because the vast majority of properties are not listed as well as they should be.

When the Bank of Canada lowered its rate to an all time low of one per cent, it pushed many of those buyers sitting on the fence towards making the move. It's important to keep in mind that lower prices and interest rates means that for virtually anyone upgrading to a more expensive house or condo, the buyer's market is a good thing as the spread between the two transactions (sale and purchase) will be favourable.

The fixer-upper, previously the only house many people could afford, seems to be on its way out in this new economy.

There are a few incentives being offered by the Government, in lieu of the market uncertainty, that have come up to help curb consumer fear. Aside from the historically low interest rates the government has increased the maximum RRSP withdrawal to $25,000, for first time buyers. This along with renovation tax credits and new first time buyer land transfer tax credits will put more money back in the consumer's pocket. Far be it from me to equate the government with superhero as synonyms but nevertheless these incentives are there.

Perhaps the greatest change we've seen is the one that has not yet been realized by the majority. The impact of this realization has, and will continue to have, the most significant impact but thus far relatively few have benefited from this realization. This epiphany is the understanding that our real estate market — GTA — stands above every other in Canada. Consider that our residential real estate market appreciated at approximately five per cent year over year for almost the past decade. Now compare that with the fact that Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver saw fluctuations that saw bold increases yet stunning decreases over the same period of time.

Our market's sustainability, due to our economic importance and strength, as well as steady population growth, and the fact that Toronto is the business capital of Canada, means that our market suffers least and grows steadily, and without bubbles.

The fact that our market had the furthest to stretch before hitting the ceiling means the gaps of $20,000-$50,000 in savings available mean the most here. A home in Vancouver that has tailed of $50,000 may or may not rise back to its highest peaks — if it does, the timeframe may prove to be quite unpredictable. However, a home that has tailed off even just $30,000 in the GTA was already under priced to begin with and, therefore, has that much higher to climb, and will likely do so at the immediate onset of our market's resurrection.

Amit is a Realtor/Developer with Re/Max. amitp@rogers.com

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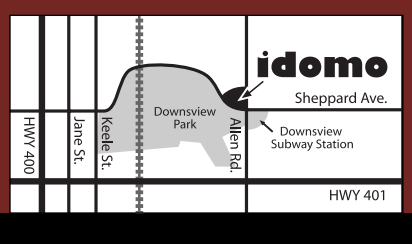

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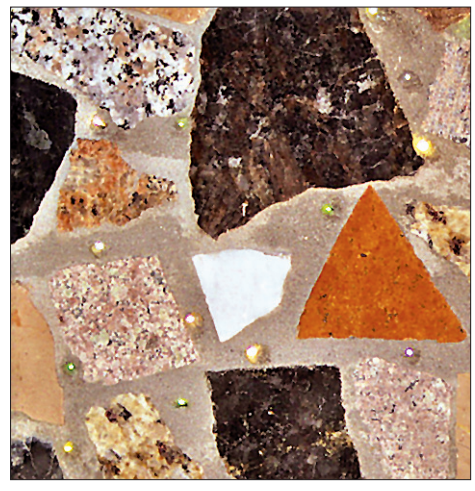
Flooring: It's all in the grout

HomeScape

Thinking wood?

- Some say wood with polyurethane is great for kitchens because it is easier on the back than standing on hard tile. But water damage poses a problem for wood that is not sealed well, so you must make sure your wooden flooring is well sealed, preferably on site so both the wood and the hairline spaces between the boards are sealed.



Picking your kitchen flooring can be a tough decision as there are many options outside the design to choose from such as whether to go with concrete, stone, ceramic, vinyl or wood.

If you love to cook, entertain a lot or have children, your kitchen floor will be well-used and abused. And the wrong type of flooring will cause you headaches, believe me.

I don't know what I was thinking when I purchased light-coloured tiles with ivory grout for my kitchen. Perhaps I had imagined that a tiled kitchen was my ticket to a maintenance-free kitchen floor. Or maybe that the whole kitchen could be self-cleaning, like those European public toilet booths that close up tight and self-scrub after every usage. But no, this was unfortunately not the case.

My excuse is that I was seduced by gorgeous pictures in a magazine. The reality is that I now fully appreciate that a light tile shows dirt much more readily than a dark one. Furthermore, I unwisely did not go along with my mother's advice that I should buy a tile with a splotchy pattern, so dirt would not be so obvious. I went with a subtle linear pattern that showcases dirt as if it were on Broadway. What was I thinking?

Making a decision about kitchen flooring is not easy. But if your kitchen is an active area, you need to think carefully about cleaning requirements and whether you are content with more or much happier with less. There are many choices in kitchen flooring and all require some maintenance, but the bottom line is that some are much more fussy than others.

First of all, don't choose white tile or grout, unless you enjoy cleaning your floors after every meal. Also be wary of lighter colours or subtle patterns that show every spill or drip.

And know that some materials cause more stress than others. For example, natural stone, such as marble, limestone or granite is beautiful, but these stones are porous, so spilling balsamic vinegar or barbecue sauce may pose a stain hazard if the stone is not sealed regularly or the spill is not immediately wiped off.

Concrete is durable and very flexible as it can be made to look like slate, tile, brick or cobblestone. It can be stamped, stenciled and etched with acid, or it can be left smooth. But it too must be sealed regularly because untreated or infrequently treated concrete soaks up spills and stains.

That leaves us with porcelain, ceramic or vinyl, the traditional choices for a kitchen. But each of these has its ups and downs. The seams between vinyl peel and stick tiles collects dirt fast, plus edges will eventually chip and peel back. Rolled vinyl is a better choice, but remember that vinyl is easily damaged.

Ceramic tiles and porcelain are much tougher, and they stand up to water without the necessity of sealing in most cases. Sounds like the best choice for minimizing work, but the dirty grout problem is a headache. It helps to seal the grout when it is new or freshly cleaned. Thin lines of grout also help make dirty grout less obvious, as does a darker grout colour. Remember that you'll probably be scrubbing at the grout with a toothbrush at some point, but you'll undoubtedly want to make sure it's required less often rather than more.

Sylvia Putz is a journalist with an interest in decor and design. She's written for the TV show Arresting Design; sputz@arrestingdesign.com.

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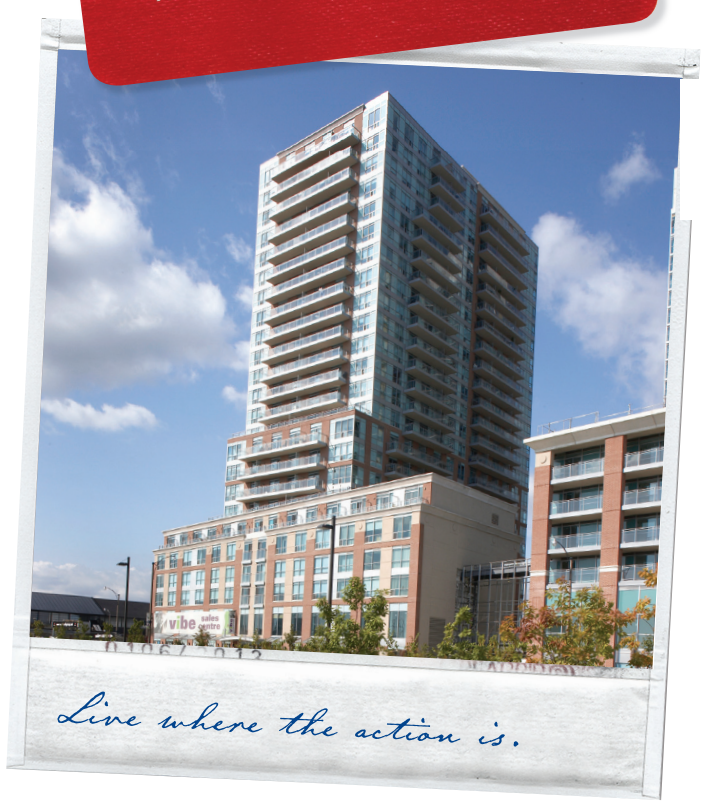

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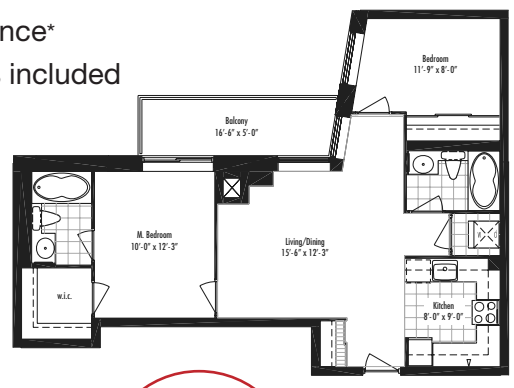

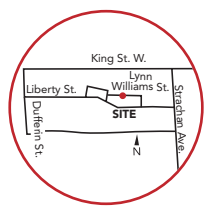

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Monarch

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Understated elegance

Suite Talk

VANESSA GRECO
for Metro Canada

From fur and cast-iron, to suede and steel — the Chaplin model suite at the Courtyards of Upper Forest Hill was designed to feel as good as it looks.

"All the textures just welcome you in," said designer Enza Checchia of Decorenza. "There's light coming through glass and fur to greet your feet."

A marriage of style and utility ideal for busy young professionals is what Checchia had in mind when designing the Chaplin — one of three model suites for SLM Property Investments Inc's newest residences.

From a cream Barcelona chair to pale-green throw pillows, a variety of neutral colours are layered throughout the 852-square-foot unit. Natural maple flooring adds warmth to the white-walled space.

"We want the room to have a soothing, airy feeling. To be a really fresh space," said Checchia, who described her style as understated elegance.

Black accents have been strategically placed to tie the rooms together. A dramatic black television cabinet balances the cream-coloured living area, while black-and-chrome bar stools add contrast to the kitchen.

To co-ordinate a suite that was both efficient and elegant, Checchia made subtle glamour her motto. Above the dining table hangs a crystal chandelier covered by an organza shade. The organza gives the traditional light fixture a contemporary twist.

"When designing for smaller spaces, everything must serve a double duty," Checchia said, adding that the suite's theme is "urban chic."

Other notable pieces in the Chaplin suite include a mirror with a circular cast-iron pattern on top and an all-glass coffee table that doesn't occupy much visual space.

Prices at the Courtyards of Upper Forest Hill range from $224,900 to $434,900 for suites from 828 to 1,330 square feet.

The designer of the suite above calls the theme "urban chic."

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Passionate red adds energy to home

It's the colour of passionate romance and thundering rage, the hue of choice for everything from sleek sports cars and old-school power ties to knockout nail polish. Sexy or sweet, rugged or regal, red always gets noticed.

And, according to interior designers, it's a secret weapon if you want to add a burst of style and energy to your home without major expense or effort.

"Red is one of those statement colours," says designer Janine Carendi. Even in small doses, "it is something that can really ignite a room."

It's also a mood-lifter. "Going into spring, it's a lively, happy colour," says designer Mallory Mathison. "But it's not pastel, so it's unexpected. It has that 'wow' factor."

In this season of bargain hunting, here's your guide to seeing red — and using it affordably — to bring a fresh look and distinctive energy to your home.

YOUR GO-TO COLOUR

Designer Brian Patrick Flynn calls it "the bold neutral." There are shades of red to match any colours already in your home. Browns, blues, pinks, oranges, greys, black and white - "red even looks really good with lime green," he says. "And depending on what you pair it with, it becomes more masculine or feminine."

Red can be traditional (warm, deep reds like cranberry and cinnamon) or modern (brighter, lighter shades like true red or cherry), and it works as well with homey French country interiors as it does with elegant, Asian-inspired ones.

It's also a quick-fix colour. It can brighten a room that gets little sunlight or give a facelift to a room that feels dated. "So many people have been doing blue and brown for such a long time," says Mathison. "Weed out the blue and add in red."

In traditional rooms that feel a bit stuffy, Flynn suggests covering formal wood panelling with flat red paint: "It's clean and serene and more modern."

SECOND LIFE

If you have an old piece of furniture or accessory that's functional but worn, paint it red. A bold, red lacquer finish "breathes new life into just about any piece and instantly makes it the star of the room," Flynn says.

Adding red to your room can create an instant 'wow factor.'

For small pieces, like chairs, lamps or vases, regular cans of spray paint should work. For large pieces, consider renting a sprayer (the technical name is HVLP, or high-volume low-pressure sprayer) from a home improvement store. The cost is minimal, Flynn says, and the units come with instructions (the store may also offer tips on using it).

SMALL DOSES

"You probably wouldn't wear an entire red outfit, but you can have red nails and pretty red lipstick or a handbag. So think that way in your home," says Mathison.

Search your home for items to group together, like books with red covers and pieces of art that include the colour red.

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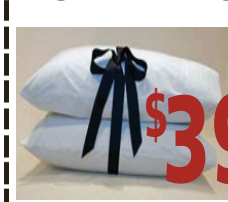
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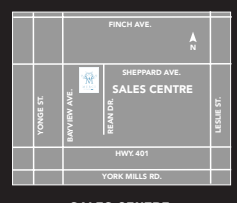

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Jeffrey D. Cowan
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Q We purchased an un-built condo approximately three years ago and spent a fairly large sum of money getting one of the penthouse units and had it customized so that, as empty nesters, we could have exactly what we wanted and would contemplate staying there until such time as it was necessary to move into potentially assisted housing. That was the plan. We have been fairly vigilant as the unit has progressed and have discovered that major items have either been left out or planning was so bad that shower doors can only open halfway before hitting the toilet. What are our options?

A As a lawyer who primarily acts on behalf of the purchaser, I see this all too often. You as the purchaser work as best as you can with the builder but there comes a point when they can't move any further and you are still nowhere near the promised new home.

This is where the term "abatement" comes into your vocabulary, which basically means a reduction in the purchase price because the builder has been unable to provide what you contractually agreed upon. No builder ever wants to get to this spot but it happens and you need to be hard-nosed about it. A proper introduction of the concept should be intimated as soon as your builder says it has done all it can do for you.

Using your lawyer to help you negotiate this reduction in the purchase price is probably advisable, but remember this falls out of the normal scope of real estate transactions and your lawyer will be charging their hourly rate. Be careful of your blanket use of your lawyer — "You'll be hearing from our lawyers!" — because not only will you be incurring un-retrievable costs, the builder will be in the same position and stances will become much more adversarial. With guarded consideration use your lawyer as one of your last resorts.

Jeffrey D. Cowan is the principal of Cowan & Taylor, Barristers & Solicitors, jeff@cowanandtaylor.com. The information contained in this article should not be relied upon as legal advice.

Kanye West pens new book
Kanye West is writing a book. The Love Lockdown singer will document his recent Glow in the Dark Tour with a tome including behind-the-scenes photographs, concept art, his own commentary and a best-of CD. **FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK**

Entertainment

Song dispute

Rihanna and Michael Jackson are being sued for allegedly stealing the song Wanna Be Startin' Something, female-first.co.uk reports. Singer Manu Dibango claims they stole part of his song Soul Makossa. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DEAN LISK, DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●●○ EXCELLENT; ●●●○○ GOOD; ●●○○○ FAIR; ●○○○○ POOR

Jenn Grant finds her voice

Derek Trucks Band, Fray, Rankin Family and Dierks Bentley also release new music

MusicReviews
music@metronews.ca

The Derek Trucks **Band**

Album: Already Free
Label: Sony Music
Rating: ●●●●○

AS GUITARIST FOR THE Allman Brothers Band, Derek Trucks is the true successor to slide legend Duane Allman. Trucks is unquestionably one of the great electric blues-rock guitarist in the business today and the solos that slice through these 12 tracks are the sort that set the hairs on the back of your neck on end. On this release, Trucks takes his solo band in a southern R&B direction more in keeping with the old Electric Flag than the Allmans. It's much more comfortable fit than his solo effort, Songlines, which took the band to jazzier places, and brings out the best in vocalist Mike Mattison, percussionist Count M'Butu and keyboard player Kofi Burbridge.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

The Rankin **Family**

Album: These Are The Moments
Label: MapleMusic/Universal
Rating: ●●½

THE RANKINS ARE all grown up now and seeking an adult contemporary market. Turning to songwriters like new age pianist Jim Brickman probably isn't the way to go about it. The synth and drum collisions in the lead single Breathe Dream Pray Love tend to enhance the frailty in Heather's vocal delivery, unfairly rendering it to little more than a squeak. The Rankins' strength lies in the Celtic innocence of their vocal harmonies and the power of Jimmy's country-tinged songwriting. The fact that they turned to outside songwriters on two of the six new tracks on this album demonstrates a lack of direction and perhaps, commitment. Unfortunately, the best material on this 13-track CD are the remixes of older material. These Are The Moments is only really half an album, something to sell to the fans on tour.

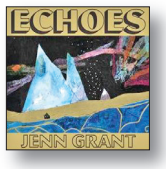
Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

IVAN OTIS PHOTO

Jenn Grant's new album Echoes was released this week.

Jenn **Grant**

Album: Echoes
Label: Six Shooter/Warner
Rating: ●●●●○

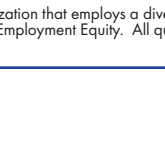


WHEN HALIFAX-BASED chanteuse Jenn Grant released her critically acclaimed debut in 2007, much of Canada's music establishment thought they discovered another Feist. But while Orchestra for The Moon featured plenty of Leslie-like moments, her follow-up is definitely Grant all the way. Echoes is filled with quiet folk, soft, soothing vocals and even a memorable Neil Young cover (Only Love Can Break Your Heart). Although her tunes aren't as well executed as Feist's, she's definitely got something that could, one day, put her in the same league.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

The **Fray**

Album: The Fray
Label: Epic/Sony Music
Rating: ●●○



IN AN IDEAL world, talent would equate with record sales, but we all know that reality is just a pipe dream. The Fray are one platinum selling act that prove, yet again, that bland, uninspiring tunes are all you need to create to be famous. On the band's third effort they once again produce extremely watered down Coldplay-like piano ballads and thoughtless über-mainstream rock; perfect for a sappy Grey's Anatomy episode, but not so great for anyone who actually likes listening to music. With just enough catchy choruses and cheesy lyrics, this record, unfortunately, will be a huge hit.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

Dierks **Bentley**

Album: Feel The Fire
Label: EMI
Rating: ●●●○

DIERKS BENTLEY IS one of the young hatless stars to emerge out of Nashville since Keith Urban broke the Music City mold. Bentley continues to work a successful formula — a blend of hard-drinking outlaw country rock for the crackers (Life On The Run), bedroom ballads for the womenfolk (I Wanna Make You Close Your Eyes) and some bluegrass banjo for those who like to think of themselves as traditionalists. Hoping to capture some of the spirit of his hit What Was I Thinkin', Bentley even reintroduces the girl with "the white tank top" in the drink-til-you-fall-down track, Sideways. But he seems to do everything a little bit better on Feel The Fire. The guitar jams are more extended, ballads more heartfelt and the pickin' a little prettier.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

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The Man Who Made the Whole Town Lose Weight

In the small town of Alesund in Norway, many of its residents began eating a common plant that made over 1,500 of them lose weight! It all began in 2006 when a customer of Johnny Pettersen, a local health food store owner, asked him for advice on how to eliminate sugar cravings.

"I gave my customer mulberry leaf tablets because mulberry is known to lower your blood sugar after meals. When blood sugar is stable, sugar cravings disappear. And it worked very well. I started recommending mulberry to many customers and soon noticed that they were losing weight. This made me curious, so I studied the effect of mulberries on blood sugar, insulin and fat burning. Surely enough, because of the effect on blood sugar, mulberry leaves also lead to lower insulin secretion, which makes you able to burn stored fat better and also reduces fat storage from excess calories."

The 10-day diet

When Pettersen increased the dosage, recommending two mulberry tablets before each meal, he found that his customers not only controlled their sugar cravings, but also lost significant amounts of weight.

"I recommended that customers follow the programme for a minimum of 10 days in order to eliminate their need for sugar stimulation. Sugar works as a drug on the brain and people need to eliminate the need for a 'sugar high' if they want to stay slim. Taking mulberry leaves, my customers changed to a healthier diet without even noticing it — they simply didn't crave sugar."

1500 people lost weight

After the success of the first customers, word travelled fast. In the last 12 months Pettersen has worked with over 1,500 customers in Alesund and the surrounding area. He feels that his simple and natural mulberry formula has been a tremendous success.

He concludes, "Once my customers try mulberry leaves, they come back, often with friends and family, and buy several packages. It is rewarding because I see them coming back happy, healthy and slimmer."

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For centuries, the Japanese culture, which is known for having a long life and a slim, healthy physique, has enjoyed the benefits of mulberry leaves. We now know from clinical studies how mulberry leaves regulate blood sugar levels. For dieters, this means a lower production of insulin after eating carbohydrates. Insulin is responsible for storing excess calories as fat and for shutting down fat burning. Too much insulin is a dieter's worst enemy!

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Art exhibit cuts to the drummer

IAN NATHANSON
for Metro Canada

This Illustration of Red Hot Chili Peppers' drummer Chad Smith is one of 50 on display this month as part of Cut To The Drummer.

Consider the conundrum faced by many drummers — they are generally deemed a vital backbone to any musical unit and simultaneously regarded as offbeat, wacky characters.

Even someone with the depth and skill of Rush's Neil Peart is all too familiar with the drummer being the butt of many a joke. "Q. What do you call a drummer with half a brain? A. Gifted," he quipped in his 2006 book, Roadshow: Landscape With Drums.

Certainly these beat-keepers wouldn't mind being portrayed as an illustration or two to celebrate all aspects of their personalities.

"Sometimes the great ones get sucked into the spotlight just by their musicianship alone," says Jeremy Taggart of Our Lady Peace. "My favourite drummers, for instance, also happened to be celebrities — guys like (The Who's) Keith Moon, (Led Zeppelin's) John Bonham. Even jazz great Elvin Jones."

Bonham, Jones, Moon and Peart — and Taggart, too — will get a chance to be celebrated as part of Cut To The Drummer, a month-long art exhibition of 50 portraits of 50 drummers by 50 illustrators which opens tonight at the Steam Whistle Gallery.

And just as drummers are deemed unsung music heroes, illustrators too are considered unsung artists. Their works are commissioned by a variety of magazines, newspapers, advertising posters, T-shirts and books worldwide. Yet these same talents rarely achieve household-name status.

"Most illustrators work

Solowoniuk

out their ideas in collaboration with an art director or art publisher," explains Sandra Dionisi, a Toronto illustrator whose works appeared in Rolling Stone, The Washington Post and Random House. "So while we might deal more with the business community, these are still original ideas that capture each person's own style."

The brainchild behind the exhibition, Dionisi conceived the idea after noticing Warner Music Canada president Steve Kane wearing a wristband with the letters F.U.M.S. Upon learning the acronym represented a scholarship fund set up by Billy Talent drummer Aaron Solowoniuk, she met with Solowoniuk to discuss her plans.

In many ways, Solowoniuk not only related to the unsung hero label that drummers incur, but also as one who overcame personal struggles having been diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis more than a decade ago.

Two years ago, he opened up about those struggles to the Billy Talent fanbase. "I dealt with a lot of dark times," Solowoniuk says. "Then I started reading more about it and realized a lot of kids as young as seven getting diagnosed with MS. So I felt it was time to let people know what I went through and that dealing with MS was manageable."

Art opening

- The Cut To The Drummer exhibition opens tonight at the Steam Whistle Gallery.
- For more info, check out cttd.wordpress.com

Melt away that frosty landline with tons of talk.

Elton John drops Vegas show
Promoters for Elton John say the pop singer will close his Las Vegas Strip show, The Red Piano, on April 22. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Evans Pushes forward

CHRIS ALEXANDER
for Metro Canada

Actor Chris Evans is a hot property and not just because of his (to date) dual picture stint as The Human Torch. The 27-year-old Fantastic Four star has come a long way since appearing in bit parts on network TV shows like Boston Public and The Opposite Sex, graduating to such lightweight multiplex fare as Not Another Teen Movie and Cellular to playing the highly combustible Johnny Storm in the aforementioned Marvel Comics blockbusters.

Now Evans is immersing himself in a different sort of pulp fiction with Push (opening tomorrow across Canada), a visually arresting, almost meditative science fiction thriller that co-stars the inimitable Dakota Fanning and is directed by flashy U.K. filmmaker Paul McGuigan (Lucky Number Slevin). The rogue psychics vs. anti-establishment picture is a dash more sophisticated and certainly more cerebral than most of his previous genre outings.

"Paul really sold me on Push," said Evans, in Toronto recently.

"I thought the script really respected the intelligence of its audience and had, for a comic book style film, a very intricate plot and a real independent spirit."

Chris Evans

Push is set in the not-too-distant future and sees Evans starring as Nick Grant, a second generation telepath who gets entwined in a serpentine coup to overthrow an elite, psychic experimentation government organization known as Division. The film calls on Evans to keep his usual smirking jock persona under wraps to play a brooding, fringe dwelling, and reluctant hero.

"At this stage in my career, I'm getting tired of, y'know, throwing on the letterman jacket and tossing the old football around," says the boyish looking actor.

"I'm always trying to find roles that challenge me and teach me. I watch someone like Russell Crowe in Gladiator and see the way he is both a physical and emotional presence … that's where I want to be one day."

Whether or not Push is the picture that catapults Evans into the bigger leagues, he is adamant that the journey to get there is what matters most.

"With every movie I do, successful or not, I think I get just a little bit better at using the brush."

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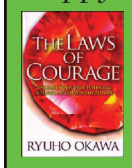
Azaria, girlfriend expecting baby
Hank Azaria and his girlfriend Katie Wright are expecting a baby boy. "They're quite ecstatic," the actor's rep Stan Rosenfield tells People magazine. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Happy Science



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Northern nods

Many Canadians up for Grammy

Steve Wood has told the stories again and again.

Wood is a multiple Grammy Award nominee and a drama teacher at a First Nations high school near Edmonton. Over and over, he regales his students with tales of rubbing shoulders with Tragically Hip frontman Gord Downie, rapper Eve and even pop superstar Britney Spears.

And he doesn;t mind one bit.

"When I talk to the kids in my class, they can't even fathom going to the Grammy Awards," he said in the lead-up to this Sunday's show (Global, 8 p.m.).

"Then they see me, that's exactly why I'm doing this — to inspire them to believe and do whatever they want, to show that anything's possible. If you live in a First Nations community, you'll find any little type of inspiration or any type of encouragement is a good thing.

"So I repeat (those anecdotes) over and over again."

"The very first year my expectations were very high, and I learned don't do that, because the letdown is terrible."
Multiple Grammy Awaed nominee Steve Wood

But there's one part of his story he'd like to change. While Wood's powwow dance group, Northern Cree, are up for their fourth Grammy, this time for their album Red Rock, they've never won.

It's the same story for Rush, nominated for best rock instrumental performance. It's their sixth Grammy nod and they're still hoping to bring home their first trophy. Though it seems unfathomable, even perennial nominee and rock legend Neil Young — up this year for best solo rock vocal performance — has never won a Grammy.

Other Canadian nominees include Montreal-raised Rufus Wainwright, Walter Ostanek of St. Catharines, Quebec soprano Karina Gauvin, Ellen Page and Michael Cera for their contribution to the "Juno" soundtrack and Joel Zimmerman, a Niagara Falls DJ who performs as Deadmau5.

Though Wood says there are tangible benefits from just being nominated, he and other Canadians who have been shut out in the past would love to finally get their hands on the hardware.

The first time he ever attended the L.A. event, his excitement and surprise at being nominated soon turned to confidence and anticipation — in other words, he set himself up for a fall.

"The very first year my expectations were very high, and I learned don't do that, because the letdown is terrible," Wood said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tickemaster under fire over Boss show

CONCERT A New Jersey congressman is demanding an investigation after Bruce Springsteen fans were unable to buy tickets from Ticketmaster's website, which then promptly offered them more expensive tickets from a subsidiary. When tickets for Springsteen's Meadowlands show went on sale Monday, some fans got an error message on their computer screen that shut them out from buying tickets. A TicketsNow ad offered tickets for hundreds of dollars more than face value.

Universal Studios to rebuild sets

FILM Universal Studios Hollywood said Tuesday most of the sets destroyed last June when a fire ripped through part of its back lot will reopen this summer. Production will resume in midsummer on the rebuilt New York streetscape — featured in Spider-Man 2 and Transformers — plus Courthouse Square and Brownstone Street, a studio news release said.

Fringe co-stars marry in secret

COUPLE Life imitates art at the Fox series Fringe, where co-stars Anna Torv and Mark Valley have wed. Torv's representative, Jen Turner, says the couple were married in a small, hush-hush ceremony in December after secretly dating for several months. Torv, 29, plays FBI Special Agent Olivia Dunham on Fringe.' Valley, 44, played Dunham's partner and secret lover, agent John Scott, when the series began last fall.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In brief

SHOW Here comes the next Newlywed Game host. Carnie Wilson, the Wilson Phillips singer, is slated to host 40 episodes of a new GSN edition of the show where newly married couples answer questions to find out how well they know each other.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HollywoodRants

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TO	Vu	SC	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
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	215	343	4	OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere Il	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	The Nature of Things (N)		Doc Zone (HDTV) (N)		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Ugly Betty "Kissed Off"		30 Rock	30 Rock	Hell's Kitchen (N)		News (N)
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	-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	Big Bang Th	How I Met	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		(10:01) Eleventh Hour		News (N)
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	219	346	20	ACH-B	Instant Star	TMZ (N)	Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Eleventh Hour "Surge"		(10:02) Private Practice (N)		News (N)
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	-	388	61	PBS	News-Lehrer	Goodnight Swt.	Doc Martin		Voyages of Discovery		MI-5 "One Last Dance"		Business Rpt.
	297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	Smallville "Requiem" (N)		Supernatural (HDTV) (N)		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men
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news	502	390	26	NW	CBC News	Newman	The Hour		CBC News: The National		Supercar (N)		National
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	616	521	39	SHO	The Outer Limits		Love-Death	Love-Death	Trailer Park	Trailer Park	*Snakes on a Plane* ★★ (2006, Horror)		
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	522	506	43	HIS	NCIS "Brothers in Arms"		Lost Worlds		Deep Wreck Mysteries		NCIS "Brothers in Arms"		Ancestors
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	600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Holmes on Homes		The Fix	Disaster DIY	Home to Flip	Real Renos	Holmes-Homes
	294	529	47	TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	*The Cookout* ★ (2004, Comedy) Ja Rule.		
	576	582	49	BET	106 & Park	*Hair Show* ★ (2004, Comedy) Mo'Nique, Kellita Smith, Gina Torres.					Baldwin Hills	Baldwin Hills	Judge Hatchett
	627	528	50	SPC	Rabbit Fall	Rabbit Fall	Lost "Confidence Man"		Star Trek: Voyager		Chuck (HDTV) 3D		Stargate SG-1
	581	566	52	MTV	Mom & Dad	After	MTV News	Cribs	The Real World		Pete Doherty in 24 Hours		MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	Make or Break	Naked Fashion	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Raymond	Family Guy	Married... With	Seinfeld
	603	561	56	FOOD	Chef at Home	Chef at Home	Restaurant Makeover		Unwrapped	Secret Life of	Family	Glutton-Punish.	Ace of Cakes
	261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		Wait for God	'Allo, 'Allo	*La Bamba* ★★★ (1987, Biography), Esai Morales				Poltergeist
	621	527	63	STR	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		TMZ (N)	etalk	Sexiest Body Parts		The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		TMZ
	553	546	65	TRE	Ni Hao, Kai-lan	Nght Grdn	Toot & Puddle	Franklin	Little Bear	Maggie-Beast	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie Olie	Max & Ruby
	115	711	101	TVA	Petit monde de Laura Cadieux		La Classe de 5e (N)		Taxi 0-22 (SC)	Caméra café	TVA 22 heures	(10:45) Denis Lévesque	
	126	730	102	RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	526	507	249	VIVA	Judging Amy		Most Haunted		Most Haunted		*Passion*	Homicide File	Psychic Inv.
	300	601	301	M1	(7:15) *Emotional Arithmetic* (2007, Drama), Roy Dupuis				*Where in the World Is Osama bin Laden?*			(10:35) *Rendition* ★★	
	305	612	306	PIX	(6:30) *The Wild Bunch* ★★★★ (1969, Western)				*Friday the 13th Part 3* ★ (1982, Horror)			(10:40) *Swingers*	

critics'corner

Where in the World Is Osama bin Laden?
Two words you need to know before watching this 2008 documentary: Morgan Spurlock. Yep, the guy behind "Super Size Me" made this with tongue planted firmly in cheek, and you should watch it the same way. His girlfriend's pregnancy spurs Spurlock to pay a visit to the Middle East in hopes of finding the world's most notorious terrorist and making the world safe for his child. It's an exercise in futility, but he does meet some interesting people. 9 PM on M1

Doc Zone
It would help if their pants really did catch fire. The new documentary "The Truth About Liars" brings science and sociology to bear on lying and cheating — why people do it and why some people do it compulsively. It also includes some "news you can use": tips on how to tell whether someone is lying. 9 PM on CBC

Simon in high-def
Simon Cowell uses special make-up to appear flawless on TV, femalefirst.co.uk reports. Cowell reportedly insists his make-up artist uses cosmetics which hide his imperfections on high definition TV. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Cruise says he's a big fan of car racing

INTERESTS Tom Cruise still feels the need for speed, people.com reports. The actor, 46, shares his love of NASCAR and racing in a new interview set to air Friday on ESPN2."For me as a kid growing up, I always wanted to race cars," says Cruise, who starred in the 1990 racing film Days of Thunder. NASCAR, he says, "is a very unique kind of racing that feels very American."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Cruz plans karaoke for Oscar night

CELEBRATING Win or lose on Oscar night, best supporting actress nominee Penelope Cruz says she plans to celebrate after the show with karaoke, usmagazine.com reports. "I'm sure I will. You know I'm a big fan of karaoke," she said on the Ellen DeGeneres Show. "I have one at home," Cruz says. "I even do it alone sometimes." Her favorite song? "I do a lot of Eminem, Around the Outside," Cruz says. "That's one of my favorites. Yeah, but that (Oscar) night, whatever happens, (we're) going to have to do some karaoke."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Former manager sues Britney and her parents

LAWSUITS Britney Spears' former manager Sam Lutfi is suing the singer and her parents, Jamie and Lynne Spears, for defamation and breach of contract, L.A. court documents show, people.com reports.

In the lawsuit filed Tuesday, Lutfi is also claiming libel, battery and intentional infliction of emotional distress. "Jamie and Lynne launched a campaign of lies and intimidation designed to destroy Lutfi and drive him out of Britney's life," the papers read.

"This campaign also provided Jamie with the opportunity he needed to obtain an appointment as Britney's conservator."

Additionally, the lawsuit alleges: "Despite seemingly accomplishing their objectives, Jamie and Lynne have nevertheless continued their smear campaign against Lutfi. Thus, having no other alternative, Lutfi brings this action to defend himself against Jamie's and Lynne's persistent attacks."

Last Friday, Britney's father obtained a new restraining order against Lutfi, accusing him of harassing the Spears family.

Lutfi, who says he became Spears' manager after the two met in an L.A. nightclub in 2007, claims his reputation was damaged by Lynne Spears' book, Through the Storm, in which she makes allegations about Lutfi's control over her daughter. He calls the allegations "lies and fabrication."

Lutfi's attorney, Bryan J. Freedman said in a statement Tuesday that there is "overwhelming evidence from independent witnesses" proving his client's case and that "at the time of the trial in this action, the jury will have an opportunity to weigh the credibility of the witnesses."

Lawyers for Jamie Spears weren't immediately available for comment.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Four Aussie film stars to appear on stamps

HONOURS Nicole Kidman, Russell Crowe, Cate Blanchett and Geoffrey Rush all have Oscars in common, and now each member of the Australian quartet can boast another distinction: They all appear on special edition postage stamps in their native country, people.com reports. "Something like this — when you see your face on a stamp — says 'wow,'" Kidman, 41, told the BBC. She's particularly delighted that her children will one day "lick a stamp, put it on an envelope and say, 'That's my mum.'" Blanchett, 39, said the honour made her feel "utterly, deeply humbled ... I'm going to be licked by millions of Australians and I can't wait." The stamps show each star in two guises: In character for their Oscar-winning roles and as their glamorous selves. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Joaquin insists he's serious about his music career

REINVENTIONS Joaquin Phoenix insists he's getting a bum rap, people.com reports. "There's not a hoax," Phoenix tells the Associated Press of doubts about his sudden conversation from movie star to hip-hop artist.

"Might I be ridiculous? Might my career in music be laughable? Yeah, that's possible, but that's certainly not my intention."

Questions about his intentions surfaced after the newly bearded Phoenix, 34, took the stage in Las Vegas on Jan. 16 in an ill-fated debut of his new career.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Is Madonna trying to make A-Rod jealous?

DATING Femalefirst.co.uk is suggesting that Madonna is reportedly dating a Brazilian model to make Alex Rodriguez jealous.

The 50-year-old singer, who has been romantically linked to Alex and Jesus Luz since her split from husband Guy Ritchie, is keen to show Alex what he is missing by not fully committing to her, the website reports.

A source told the New York Daily News newspaper: "Madonna likes to be in control, and she hasn't been able to completely control Alex yet.

"Jesus has been much more attentive than Alex recently. If A-Rod will commit to Madonna, then he'll win her affections. But it's not like he's giving her a diamond ring. Neither he nor Madonna is 100 per cent committed to each other yet."

Baseball player Rodriguez, 33, is furious Madonna has been spotted out with 22-year-old Jesus, claiming it has damaged his reputation. The source added: "Alex is well aware that Madonna is out and about with Jesus, and he isn't happy about it. It's embarrassing for him because he and Madonna have been so publicly linked, and now it looks like he's been dumped for a younger stud."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Clarkson says she's not gay

RUMOURS Get it straight: Kelly Clarkson isn't gay, usmagazine reports. "I get that all the time," she tells AOL's pop culture news site, PopEater.com. "People are like, 'Are you secretly a lesbian? Because I'd really love it.'

"Lesbians tell it to me all the time," she goes on. "I'm like, 'I'm glad it works for you, and I wish I liked women like that because often times, men are very hard for me, but I happen to like boys.'" Clarkson goes on to say she "could never be a lesbian. I would never want to date (someone like) myself, ever. I'm a crazy person. I need some kind of stable, quiet man."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Hilary strikes back at Faye

CATFIGHT Hilary Duff is set to reprise Faye Dunaway's legendary role as Bonnie in the indie remake of The Story of Bonnie and Clyde — and Dunaway is not pleased, usmagazine.com reports. "Couldn't they have at least cast a real actress?" Dunaway said last week.

Duff retaliated against Dunaway Tuesday. "I think that my fans that are going to go see the movie don't even know who she is, so you know…" she told E!.

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Saturday Showers 70% 5°/ -6°
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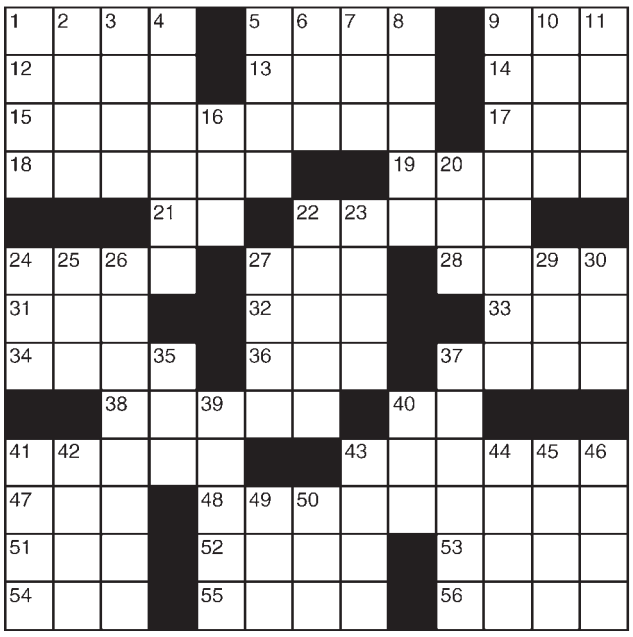

Crossword across

1 Queequeg's captain
5 Chanteuse Edith
9 Scarlet 12 "Unforgettable" singer
13 Head light?
14 Overseas agreement?
15 Dentist's task
17 Bobby of hockey lore
18 Maintain meagerly
19 "Robinson Crusoe" author
21 Either's partner
22 Stair part
24 "Listen!"
27 Lapdog, for short
28 Weak, as an excuse
31 Carnival city
32 Prune
33 Train component
34 Clean Air Act target
36 Approves
37 Terrier type
38 Sail supports
40 Tagged player
41 Offer bait
43 Scents
47 Eggs
48 One of the Rushmore quartet
51 Obtain
52 Emanation
53 Facility
54 Indivisible
55 Get ready
56 Lento

Crossword down

1 Farm fraction
2 Coatrack feature
3 Burn remedy
4 Caused (oneself) to go
5 Excellent, in modern lingo
6 Author Fleming
7 Carte lead-in
8 Creases
9 Luggage holder, often
10 Franc replacement
11 Catastrophic
16 Contemptible canine
20 Sushi fish
22 Castles
23 Little devils
24 Store-front sign abbr.
25 Intention
26 Dorm companion
27 Whodunit basis
29 Spring period
30 Anteceding
35 Hiatus
37 Ranges
39 Guitar attachment
40 Rage
41 Not "for here"
42 Divisible by two
43 PDQ
44 Repast
45 Additionally
46 Ragout, e.g.
49 "— Town"
50 Raw rock

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

					1		7	
7	8				6	9		
	5		2			6		
	6			4	3		8	
2								3
	4		6	7			5	
		3			5		1	
		6	8				9	2
	2		3					

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

A	S	A	P	■	L	O	S	■	M	O	D	E
M	A	L	A	■	I	A	M	■	A	F	A	R
O	F	F	S	H	O	R	E	■	E	F	T	S
K	E	A	T	O	N	■	L	E	S	S	E	E
■	■	■	A	P	E	■	L	E	T	T	■	■
I	D	O	■	I	S	M	■	K	R	A	F	T
T	U	F	T	■	S	O	T	■	O	G	R	E
S	O	F	A	S	■	B	U	B	■	E	Y	E
■	■	S	K	I	S	■	N	U	S	■	■	■
T	S	H	I	R	T	■	E	M	P	I	R	E
A	E	O	N	■	O	F	F	S	I	D	E	S
S	M	O	G	■	L	O	U	■	L	E	A	P
K	I	T	S	■	E	E	L	■	L	A	D	Y

5	9	2	1	8	4	7	3	6
1	6	3	7	9	2	4	5	8
7	8	4	3	6	5	2	9	1
2	7	1	6	4	3	5	8	9
3	5	9	8	7	1	6	2	4
8	4	6	2	5	9	3	1	7
4	1	7	5	2	8	9	6	3
9	2	8	4	3	6	1	7	5
6	3	5	9	1	7	8	4	2

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min .....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day

Middle Eastern Zucchini and Onion Eggah

INGREDIENTS:
1/3 cup (75 ml) olive oil
2 onions, thinly sliced
2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
4 large eggs
1/3 cup (75 ml) 1% milk
1/3 cup (75 ml) chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley or coriander
2 tbsp (25 ml) chopped fresh dill (optional)
1 large zucchini, halved lengthways, then thinly sliced
Chili sauce or harissa (optional)

METHOD:
1. Heat 1 tbsp (15 ml) oil in large frying pan with flameproof handle over medium heat. Add onions and stir 3 minutes, then add garlic and continue frying for 2-3 minutes, stirring occasionally, until onion is soft and golden brown.
2. Meanwhile, beat eggs, herbs and milk together in large bowl. When onions are golden, stir into egg mixture.
3. Heat 2 tbsp (25 ml) oil in pan. Add zucchini and gently fry 5 minutes, stirring frequently, until tender and lightly browned. Add zucchini to egg mixture.
4. Add remaining oil to pan and swirl around to coat edge. Pour in eggs and zucchini, using spatula to spread mixture out. Leave eggah to cook 8 minutes, shaking pan occasionally, until egg mixture is almost set and only a small amount of unset mixture remains on surface. Meanwhile, preheat grill to high and position grill shelf about 4 in. (10 cm) from heat.
5. Place pan under grill and grill eggah 2–3 minutes until surface is just set. Run spatula around edge and invert onto large platter. Serve immediately or set aside and leave to cool. Serve cut into wedges, sprinkled with chili sauce or harissa, if you like.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Being resentful will only do you harm. It's your turn to be taken care of, after you've exhausted yourself. An obstinate friend will help you out.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Things won't change just because you were told they would. You'll see the other side of a very sad story. Don't let your particular talents atrophy.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Neglect of safety precautions causes an accident. Nothing changes your mind about your values. Modify a faltering relationship without being cruel.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
All you want is respect and consideration. After intense dialogues, an issue will be resolved. Find a happy medium.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
When shady characters want another chance, just say no. Take a stand with unappreciative people. Don't let a wounded ego injure the innocent.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Avert crisis by not responding to malicious comments. Fear of the unknown causes withdrawal. Don't rescue anyone who needs to stand on their own.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Indecision makes someone feel like a martyr. Revisit the scene of a crime to clear up a misunderstanding. You'll get the best results from talking it out.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
People cringe when you speak your mind. Insecurity due to a forced change will frustrate you. Some harsh facts will hit an alienated friend too hard.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
An angry man says the wrong thing about your opinions. Someone's need for affection is a problem. Keep track of all the issues that cause insomnia.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Handle overwrought emotions with extreme care. You'll work harder to complete tasks. Don't ask what love can do for you, but what you can do for love.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
Allow yourself to be sentimental if the urge arises. You'll seek understanding because of a moral dilemma. Be kind when some big plans come to a halt.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Veer away from discord when a man interferes with your enjoyment. Your determination will help you to succeed. Stand firm if an injustice takes place.

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